



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

December 2021

Mr. Arcurio's Corner

Gifts and Caring

The holiday season is in full swing and the energy in the building is exciting. For me, Thanksgiving was a time of family, friends, and reflection. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with your children and their teachers each day. It is a pleasure being a part of a learning community like Lebanon Borough where families and the school work together in the best interests of the children. This is a gift that I do not take for granted.

I think that it is appropriate during this holiday season to reflect upon the gifts that we've been given and those that we have to share. Often times the true feeling of giving is overshadowed by the hustle and bustle of the season. I would like to ask everyone to take a few moments to step back and appreciate the gifts we have; such as freedom, family, and the peace of mind that goes along with living in a caring community. It is also important for us to realize that we give gifts to others every day. Our character concept for December is **CARING** and we can show this in so many simple ways. Sometimes a kind word, help with a math problem, or a smile at the right time can mean a great deal to

those around us. At LBS caring is part of our daily lives.

Thank you for all

that you do as part of our community and may your holiday traditions be happy!



Report Cards: Our report cards will be available through our Realtime Parent Portal for the first time this year. Please be sure that you have access to the Realtime Parent Portal. Grades Preschool through 3 received an email last Friday and grades 4-6 have had access for about a month. If you do not have access and cannot find the original email, please contact Mr. Arcurio at barcurio@lebanonschool.org to have your login credentials re-sent.

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio
Lead Learner/Superintendent

Important Dates

Dec 1	12:45 Dismissal - Teacher Inservice
Dec 2	BOE Meeting 6:30pm
Dec 3	End of 1st Trimester
Dec 6	PTA Meeting 6:30pm
Dec 10	Reports Cards available in Realtime Parent Portal
Dec 23	12:45 Early Dismissal
Dec 24-Jan 2	School closed - Winter Break
Jan 3	School reopens

Office Items

Emergency Closing/Delay Information



As we move into potential weather schedule-change season, please note that there are multiple avenues to check for a delayed opening or closing on mornings where there may be a question. Following are some methods that can be checked if you feel you missed the Realtime phone call:

- District Website: www.lebanonschool.org
- Twitter: @LBSWildcats
- Email: Along with the Realtime calls a text and an email are sent to the email and cell number on file.

Also note that when LBS has:

- a school closing - all school and after-school activities including after-care are canceled for that day.
- an early dismissal - the day ends at 12:45 pm and all after-school activities are canceled. YMCA Aftercare availability will be determined on that date based on the weather.
- a 90-minute delay - the students may enter the school at 10:00 am.

Mindfulness Movement Program Piloted at Lebanon Borough School



In October, the Hunterdon Health and Wellness Centers and the Hunterdon County Partnership for Health collaborated to pilot a new program called Mindfulness Movement for children in grades 4th-6th grade at Lebanon Borough School. The 4-week series was held after school once a week for a month. The class was taught by Kathy Vandenburg, MA, Certified Meditation and Mindfulness Instructor, Hunterdon Health and Wellness Centers.

Benefits of the program include enhanced focus, fostering compassion and self-esteem, boosting confidence, building empathy and happiness, building emotional and psychological resilience, reducing stress and anxiety and providing an opportunity to unplug. The children learned various movement and meditation skills during the program. In November, the program launched at High Bridge Elementary School.



Health Office...

- *Bully-Free Zone:* During the month of November, our character trait was Caring. Our focus as a school community was on kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness, and helping people in need. The students will continue the character trait of Caring for December. Students also enjoyed Wingman activities this month.
- *Nurse's News:* Students go outside every day for mask 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.

Safety Patroller of the Month

Congratulations to Noelle Arntz for being Safety Patroller of November 2021. Noelle has shown consistency in her performance as a Safety Patroller. She is always on time, responsible and respectful. She has shown a great interest in getting to know all our Preschoolers names. Great job and keep up the good work! Congratulations



Art

The Art room came together as a community to participate in a PTA event to decorate a Holiday tree. Every grade participated to show the pride they have in their “village.” Kindergarten and Grade 1 also got to start learning about Frank Stella and his wild three-dimensional reliefs. Grades 2 and 3 are nearly done working on their “Jumping in the Leaves” figure drawing. Upper grades only had art twice in November due to school closures, but they were efficient with their time. Grade 4

was finally able to celebrate their finished Abstract Expressionist Animal Collage. These are truly spectacular to see. When you talk about the project at home, take note of the layers and skills that made the finished project. These artists were drawing realistic animal features, blending colors, expressing themselves through mark-making, deconstructing and then composing an abstract collage. Grade 5 tried out figure drawing and monoprinting with real leaves. Grade 6 also tried their hands at figure drawing and glazed ceramics to bring home (and perhaps gift to a loved one).

Now is a great time to purchase keepsakes from the [Artsonia Giftshop](#)! An additional 15% off using code: **HolidayFunds21**. Cards and coffee mugs make such wonderful gifts from the kids to their loved ones!! Keep an eye out for information about an art competition sponsored by the National Association of State Aviation Officials. Any student can compete in this contest to “design your perfect aircraft.” More information will be shared soon!



A common question from the kids in the Art room is “When will there be a raffle winner??” Students have been getting hole-punches a ticket for good behavior while in art. This past month MANY students received their tenth hole-punch and were entered into the raffle. I will pull three winners in mid-December, announce their names, and distribute their prizes of canvases and paints, Model Magic, or sketchbooks. In the meantime, I just love seeing students showing so much responsibility and kindness in art!



Enrichment, A.T., BSI

November was busy in Enrichment and Media! Students have been persevering in STEM challenges and engineering type activities. The older students (4-6th) have been practicing conducting targeted research and extracting information. Fourth graders then wrote letters posing as a passenger on the Mayflower while reporting all the details to a loved one back in Europe, 5th graders have developed a thesis statement with supporting details and are working on a strong introduction to presenting and persuading the audience of their opinions. Six grade has practiced how to research to get the desired information and is compiling these efforts in a GreekGod/Goddess presentation for History.

In December all classes will be participating in STEM challenges focusing on holidays around the world. We will also be practicing problem solving skills and coding skills!

A/T is being introduced to Genius Hour, inspired by Google's 20% Project. Students are exploring what their passions are and will be gearing it towards a self-chosen, self-motivated learning project. We are so excited about the possibilities!

Music

All students have worked on fine-tuning their songs for the virtual concert this month. Through these songs, we worked on pitch accuracy, rhythm, tone quality, dynamics, following melodic direction, harmony singing, choreography, and more. They have been evaluating and critiquing their performances using music vocabulary words including tone, melody, harmony, dynamics, intonation, pitch, cut-off, and more. We have also been learning about following a conductor and performance etiquette. In December, the upper grades will be focusing on rhythm and form. While learning these concepts, we will be working on a really fun cup percussion piece that is sure to be a hit! The lower grades will also be focusing on rhythm performance while using their personal percussion kits. It will be extra exciting as we work on putting together different rhythms on each instrument.

Our beginning band members have expanded their range on their instruments and many are now performing short songs that combine their first 5 pitches as well as various new rhythmic values. Their tone continues to improve along with their coordination. It is great to see them gaining so much confidence as they improve! This month, we will begin solo performances in lessons as we reach new levels in our books.

The 5th and 6th-grade band members are working on perfecting their performance of "Winter Medley" and have been great leaders in working with their beginning group members. The musicians have been evaluating their rehearsals as a class in order to find areas in need of improvement and have

been offering suggestions in order to perfect these sections. It is wonderful to see that they can pick out these trouble spots and work to correct them as a group. We are so excited to share this music with you as we record our performance this month! Once our recording is complete, we will be learning new pitches and techniques as we start our new repertoire.



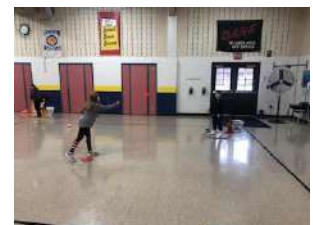
Physical Education/Health

This November in PE, all classes continued on to improve their motor skills and fitness levels. Everyone participated in under-hand throwing and catching games like bowling, cornhole, and games that practiced the "Tick-Tock and Rock" cues taught to strengthen and enhance underhand throwing. Students also worked on maintaining their hands close together when catching different-sized objects. The

pictures below are of the kids playing a few of the games played including,

"Stuff-the-Turkey," a fun Thanksgiving-themed game that tested the executions of all cues learned during this unit. Health class focused on nutrition and the importance of eating healthy foods. We talked

about the food groups, which ones were the most nutritious, and what nutrients were in certain foods. 5th and 6th grade watched documentaries on the foods we eat and how the foods we eat can affect our overall health. Caring is the character trait for the next two months. We talked about the people



BETTER TOGETHER!

we care about and how we can show others that we care. In December we will continue working on catching techniques and overhand throwing in PE. The health unit will focus on Illness & Disease and our Caring character trait.

Spanish

¡Feliz Noviembre! In otoño (fall), Kindergarten students continued to demonstrate their love of singing and learning vocabulary words. We have learned a new song that asks ¿Qué hay en la clase? (What is in the classroom?) They have continued demonstrating correct responses to directions in Spanish, and can recognize items like 'lápiz, maestra, reloj, y mesa.' (pencil, teacher, clock, and table)

Grades 1-2 have been continuing to learn school vocabulary items that they might bring in a 'mochila' (backpack). We have been practicing recognition by coloring, making little books, charts, and playing bingo.

Grades 3-4 have been learning classroom vocabulary words and continuing to practice numbers and food vocabulary words. Grades 5-6 have been watching the next installment of the Billy saga, Billy y Las Botas (Billy and the Boots). They have been learning grammar and vocabulary in context and having a lot of fun singing along.

All grades have learned about Día de Los Muertos, which is a holiday celebrated in Mexico and some other Spanish-speaking countries. We discussed the similarities and differences between Día de los Muertos and Halloween and enjoyed coloring a calavera. Take a look at some of our hard work!

Preschool

AM: This month in AM preschool we have been learning about buildings, color mixing, and thanksgiving. We learned the letters L, H, and T and the shape triangle. We named things we are thankful for and colored a placemat so we know where to put our dishes, silverware, and cups when we eat at the table. We went for a walk around town to look at all the buildings, we saw houses, stores, and the firehouse. We go outside as much as we can, eat snack outside, and go to the playground, blacktop, or grass outside our classroom. In December we will finish our buildings units, learn about gingerbread and the holidays. We will continue learning letters, shapes, numbers, rhyming, and opposites.

PM: This month we have learned about color mixing, pets, farms, thanksgiving, and dinosaurs. We learned letters L, H, and T. We read a book about the farm that we got to take home with us to share with our families. We also filled in a book with all the things we are thankful for.

We joined kindergarten for a wingman activity and a thanksgiving name turkey project. We have been going outside as much as we can either to the playground, the blacktop, or the grass outside our classroom. In December we will learn about the holidays, hibernation, and gingerbread. We will continue to learn our alphabet, numbers, rhyming, opposites, and shapes.



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 their first mini-book. They learned what needs to be included on their cover, their title page, and their back cover and they learned to number their pages. They used phonetic spelling to write their words. We have been working in writing workshop to support each other and to give and receive feedback.

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 also working on plural nouns. In our next reading unit, we will read many stories about animals. We will also be learning to recognize adjectives.

This month in science, we have been learning all about the weather. We are able to recognize the different types of storms and various weather conditions. We are learning what we need to wear for each type of weather. Next month, we will be learning about the circle of seasons and the weather patterns for our seasons here in New Jersey.

In math, we completed our module on sorting and classifying objects. We have also completed the first module focusing on addition and subtraction equations. We have been working with a partner to complete math center activities on various levels. In our next module, we will continue to work on representing addition and subtraction within 5 using objects and drawings.

We worked on many projects and activities for Thanksgiving. We learned about the Pilgrims and Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving. We learned how the Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons are made. We read the book: *Balloons Over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet. Then we designed a balloon for the parade. They created it, just like the artists do for the parade balloons. First, they drew what they

would like it to look like, and then they used balloons and art supplies to bring it to life. We also had a celebration with the preschool class and we worked together to make a craft with them.



First Grade

We hope you all had a safe and happy Thanksgiving! It's hard to believe that December is right around the corner. The students have really enjoyed our unit about The Spinning Sky. We've learned that the sun and stars can help us when we're lost, that the sun, moon and stars seem to move in patterns in the sky! Now, we will move on to our Holidays Around the World Unit. This unit is very special because it gives us an opportunity to learn about the countries, holidays, and traditions that are important to the students and families in our own class! Please make sure to send Mrs. Walsh an email with this information if you haven't already, so we can share your child's heritage and traditions with the rest of his or her classmates.

In math, the students have learned how to add numbers in any order and add three numbers



together. After returning from Thanksgiving break, we will determine if equations are equal or not equal. Later, in Module 4, the students will explore addition and subtraction relationships, such as learning how to use addition to help us subtract, represent and identify related facts, and use addition to check subtraction.

In Reading, the students have been enjoying informational texts about plants and animals. We've learned how to identify important nonfiction text features like captions and labels. In December, continue reading informational texts to compare ways that young animals resemble their parents. Later, we will read poetry and discuss rhyme, rhythm, repetition, and alliteration. In writing, we are learning how to start sentences with a capital letter, end with punctuation, and have good spacing between words. When we come back we will learn how to use detailed words in our writing to make it more interesting. Additionally, we continue to learn new spelling patterns and practice our weekly spelling words. Check out some of our "Disguised Turkeys" we made. The students had a blast disguising their turkeys in hopes they wouldn't end up on someone's plate! Thanks for "stopping by", and we are very excited for the month of December!



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 finished our first unit that was all about how different places affect us, and we were able to write very persuasive paragraphs about our favorite places, and why they are the best! We are becoming pros 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!



In Math, we spent a lot of time perfecting our place values and learning how to put together and break apart three-digit numbers. Our November Math centers

focused on perfecting our place value skills and comparing numbers. Next, we will be working on time and money, and we are very excited for that unit!



In Social Studies, we finished our second unit that was all about landforms and different regions of the world. This tied in with our Science unit that we completed about weathering and erosion of different landforms. We got to complete two experiments on how water erosion works on plateaus, and how rivers flow down mountainsides to other parts of the land. We are all looking forward to a fun December ahead of us!



Third Grade

This month the "Crew" worked together to design a perfect playground in an end-of-unit writing project. They took their amazing ideas and wrote opinion letters based on progressive changes that could be made to any playground. We still love our LBS playground, but it was a great experience to research and solve problems together. In Reading, we completed our first unit and learned many things, such as understanding the author's purpose and how to read closely to find the main idea in

nonfiction text. We learned to use nonfiction text features to increase our comprehension of text. We also celebrated and honored our brave Veterans with "thank you" sentiments and posters of gratitude. We also wrote each other kindness tickets celebrating small gestures that make



a huge difference in our daily lives. In Math, we completed our multiplication unit and are now enjoying division concepts. We learned three new multiplication games using playing cards and have enjoyed working to mastery while having fun together! In Science, we completed our 8 lessons within the Animals Through Time unit. We completed the unit by understanding how futuristic ideas of traveling

into space, and the subsequent effects on the body, are no longer an unimaginable event for ordinary humans but within our reach. In our new Science unit, students will investigate and make predictions about the weather through careful observation of the clouds and wind. Students will also learn to differentiate between weather and climate and use models to reveal global climate patterns. In Social Studies we completed our Government unit and are

looking forward to learning all about maps and globes as an opportunity to understand more about the economic, political, and social features of our country.



Fourth Grade

In Math, we have learned how to multiply by one-digit numbers and up to 4 digit numbers. We learned a few different ways: drawing place value blocks, area models, using the distributive property and partial products, however, the children's favorite way was the "old-fashioned way!" The children were actually cheering in the classroom when I announced today is the day we are learning to multiply and regroup! We later used our new knowledge of multiplication of large numbers to calculate thanksgiving costs, the children were shocked math was needed to cook! Next month we will explore ways to divide.

Each day after lunch I have been reading aloud a chapter or two of The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street, to the class. Everyone has really enjoyed the book and is so interested in what is happening with the characters, that usually the children beg me to read more. I recently told the children there are 3 more books in the series, they are super excited not to let go of these characters anytime soon! We can't wait to see what happens next to the Vanderbeekers. Also for the past few weeks, we have also been reading the novel, Mr. Popper's Penguins, as a class. We have been learning many new vocabulary words, figurative language, story elements, and comparing and contrasting the characters. At the conclusion of Mr. Popper's Penguins, we will be exploring the Antarctic region in science.

In Social Studies, we are learning about the regions of the United States. We became familiar with a region and we shared our region with the class to teach each other about our area. We will continue to learn about the early settlers in NJ.

Fifth Grade

The fifth grade class has been hard at work through the month of November. In math, we've explored the concept of volume, thinking of different ways to find the amount of space rectangular prisms take up. Long before our textbook formally introduced the formula, the class realized that multiplying the length, width, and height gives the volume. More importantly, the students understood *why* this method worked, and applied to all sorts of different situations. Up next, we're on to fractions! The first few lessons in the new unit will focus on adding and subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators. In social studies, our attention has been on the ancient civilizations in Mesopotamia: home to some of the earliest civilizations. We've explored how the fertile soil allowed for farming, which gave early people the chance to stop wandering, settle down, and eat their fill! The time and resources freed up by having a surplus of food led the Mesopotamians to create writing, trade with others, and invent helpful

tools. Students have identified the many ways these early city-states influenced our modern way of life. As we wrap up this unit, we'll "rotate" back to science, where we'll "launch" into a unit on Outer Space! Having largely finished up our unit on personal narratives, fifth grade is about to begin researching and writing informational pieces of their own. We look forward to learning from each other as students explore and present engaging topics that interest them.

Earlier this month, we presented a second round of Wingman activities (each group got the chance to work with a new grade), learning from and building on their interactive tasks in October. Fifth grade students will also be stepping up as Safety Patrol members, helping their peers safely enter and leave the building each day

Sixth Grade

In November, we abandoned our realistic/historical fiction theme of October and jumped into the fantasy genre with 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 had completed that, we were 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, Mrs. Lawn and I are coordinating a Greek God Unit. Each student chose a different god or goddess to research. They created presentations in Google slides and will present them to their classmates when we return from Thanksgiving break (specifically, Dec. 3). We should finish up Ancient Greece right around winter break, giving us a fresh start on Rome in January.

We continued our math journey this month by working on ratios in a variety of ways. We have been 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 a protractor. Meanwhile, in science, we have finished our unit on genetics and will be beginning work on food webs and how organisms interact within ecosystems.



Join the PTA

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 join the PTA! You can complete the membership

form online at this link: [2021-2022 PTA Membership Form](#). The PTA accepts checks and Venmo for payment.

Festival of Trees

A group of parents and children from Lebanon Borough School PTA decorated our tree for the Red Mill's Festival of Trees. Our tree theme is "It Takes A Village." Our ornaments are a testament to that. All hands are decorated by LBS kids with messages as to why they love LBS or living in Lebanon. The handmade houses that hang along the road that circles our tree represent our tight-knit community.



Our children also made many of our local businesses and landmarks including The Lebanon Cheese Factory, the Lebanon Borough Fire Department, Lebanon Borough School, the train station, Town Hall, Metropolitan Seafood, Provenance Farm Market, Los Chilitos, and The Fox and the Hound. We hope you come to see the tree (and vote for it) at the Festival of Trees.

Thank you to Kristen Abeles for all her help in leading this project. To the children of LBS for all their beautiful ornaments. Finally, thanks to Suzanne Arntz, Danny, Noelle, Susie, Avery, and Rylen for their help decorating. It takes a village and we have a special one.



Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org

and follow us on Twitter at

[@LBSWildcats](https://twitter.com/LBSWildcats)