



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

December, 2024

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

I hope this message finds you well as we welcome December! It's wonderful to connect with you as we reflect on the journey we've shared so far this year.

As we prepare to say goodbye to another eventful year, let's take a moment to celebrate the achievements and growth within our school community. Our students have demonstrated incredible progress, and I am continually inspired by the dedication of our teachers and staff.

December is also a time for reflection and gratitude. I encourage everyone to appreciate the people and experiences that have shaped our year. Our teachers have played a crucial role in guiding our students toward academic success, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to them for their commitment and passion for education.

In the spirit of giving, we will be participating in a local food drive this December. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and families to make a positive impact on those less fortunate by donating non-perishable food items. Let's come together as a compassionate community to support those in need. Collection boxes will be located in the main entrance vestibule. Please check out [the flyer](#) for more details.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for our upcoming events: the PTA meeting on December 2, the TREP\$ Marketplace on December 12, and the LBS Winter Concert on December 19 at 6:30 PM. These gatherings are a fantastic way to engage with our community and celebrate our students' talents.

Thank you once again for your support and commitment to our school. I am incredibly proud of each member of our community, and I look forward to the achievements and adventures that await us in the new year.



Wishing you a joyful and memorable December!

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Important Dates

- PTA Meeting - December 2
- Report Cards Available in Parent Portal - December 9
- Board of Education Meeting - December 9 (6:45pm)
- Early Dismissal for Teacher Inservice - December 11
- TREP\$ Marketplace - December 12
- PTA Kids Night Out - December 13
- LBS Winter Concert - December 19
- Early Dismissal - December 20
- School Closed for Winter Break - December 23 - Jan 1
- School Reopens - Jan 2

Happy New Year!

BETTER TOGETHER!

PTA Items

PTA Kids' Night Out Fundraiser

On Friday, December 13th from 5:30-8:00 pm, the PTA is hosting a Kids' Night Out fundraiser for LBS students to come and hang out with friends after hours at school (while parents and guardians enjoy a few hours off!). Pre-registration is required; please see [this flyer](#) for details!

[LBS Event Calendar](#)

[Donation Drive Flyer](#)

YMCA Before/After Care

- [Registration](#)

Health Office...

Bully-Free Zone: During the month of November, our character trait was Caring. Our focus as a school community was on kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness, and helping people in need. The Student Council started a Food Drive which will end on December 20th. The students will continue the character trait of Caring for December.



Nurse's News: Students go outside every day for snack breaks and recess, if weather permits, for fresh air and exercise. Please send your children to school with the appropriate attire depending on the weather. Coats, layered sweatshirts, and 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.



Broadway Trip

The LBS bus community trip to Broadway was a terrific experience. The participants enjoyed a fabulous day in New York City. The first stop was 'The Producers Club' where we learned more about what it takes to succeed in the business of theater from Broadway professional actor, Kathy Deitch. She shared stories, and tunes, and answered questions from our group. After bopping around NYC for lunch, sightseeing, and souvenir shopping, we made our way to the Wintergarden Theater for an extraordinary musical performance of *Back to the Future*. The cast, orchestra, and production team were outstanding! The special effects wowed us all, especially the Delorean Time Machine suspended in the air over the theater audience! Many thanks to all in attendance, Retreat to Broadway, the transportation company, and LBS for supporting this theatrical retreat for our LBS

community.

Safety Patrol

Congratulations to Uthkarsh for being recognized as the Safety Patroller for November! His hard work and dedication have truly shone through. Uthkarsh has consistently demonstrated great kindness and respect towards all LBS staff and students. Additionally, his punctuality has allowed him to be prepared and ready to fulfill his responsibilities effectively. Keep up the excellent work!



LBS Run-Walk-Move Club

The LBS Run.Walk.Move. Club really enjoyed its first season. We practiced hard twice a week, worked on team-building skills, emphasized weekly goal-setting practices, and had fun! The season ended with our participation in the Duck Donut 5K Race at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater. Everyone finished the race in under an hour and had a blast. Great season, all!



Art

Wow, October flew by! We had an amazing time in art. Our K-2 students explored how to make mummies by ripping paper, gluing, and adding texture. They also played with oobleck, a fascinating mixture of cornstarch and water that acts as both a solid and a liquid. We created poppy flowers for Veterans Day and learned how to draw or cut out turkeys!



Meanwhile, the 3rd and 4th graders dove into making a poppy flower field for Veterans Day, as well as a Macy's Day Parade balloon scene.

Our 5th and 6th graders did an amazing job finishing up their candy shoes. I am so impressed with how they turned out! They are just starting their new project this week: a stone archway with a gingerbread house in it.

Please look at their projects in the Artsonia app to see your child's artwork, and you can even buy gifts featuring their creations. If you need the code, please do not hesitate to email me at

kbaker@lebanonschool.org



Enrichment/Media/Technology

This month, 4-6 grades learned about the history behind the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade by reading Melissa West's book Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of The Puppeteer of Macy's Parade.



They created paper balloon floats for our LBS Thanksgiving Parade on Wednesday. PreK-3rd grades came to the parade in the downstairs hallway. It was a great send-off for the students prior to Thanksgiving break.

This month, the preschool students listened to many different books that tied into their themes of the week. This past week, we even did some Thanksgiving stories, including Turkey Trouble,

and then drew disguises to “hide the turkey from the farmer.” The children did a great job hiding the turkey in their creative costumes!

K-2 earlier in the month we read books about Veterans and discussed the veterans around us and they can thank a veteran! K-2 students were able to practice their clicking and dragging capabilities on their Chromebooks. 2nd graders created “Thankful Turkeys,” the students needed to type things they are thankful for and then use the copy and paste shortcuts to move the feathers onto another slide. They practiced the manipulation of the feathers by rotating them and pushing them to the back of the slide. Kindergartners also discussed paper coding and logging into their school computers. The children seem to be getting comfortable with the correct way to use their Chromebooks.



The Third graders have been working on using their latitude and longitude skills by creating a Latitude and Longitude scavenger hunt. The students picked a theme, found 5-10 places around the US, researched their location and developed clues and coordinates of their places for someone to solve. After creating the scavenger hunt directions, they will be making a slideshow in google slides to show images of their places. They children practiced using cut

and paste shortcuts, making a slideshow, and making a table in google docs.

TREPS Students have been gearing up for the *Marketplace on Wed. Dec. 12th in the LBS Gym at 5pm.* The children have been learning what makes a good advertisement, making paper/digital posters for their shops and practicing 1 minute elevator pitches. Please come out and support our LBS entrepreneurs next week, there will be many unique items in our marketplace. I hope to see you there!

Music

We are in full concert mode in music class. The students are excited to perform a song for everyone at the concert on December 19th!

Each grade level will perform one song at the concert. The grades five and six band will perform as well! The fourth grade will perform on recorders!

PK - Jingle Bell Stomp

K - 12 Days of Christmas

1st - Feliz Navidad

2nd - Festival of Lights

3rd - Jingle Bell Rock

4th - Holly Jolly Christmas

5th - Oh Hanukkah

BETTER TOGETHER!

6th - All I Want for Christmas is You

Students should dress their festive best! Colors can include, but are not limited to:

Blue, Gold, Red, Green, and Black

We are excited for the 19th!



Physical Education/Health

This month all classes continued to improve their throwing and catching skills, along with their motor skills and fitness levels. Below are our preschoolers playing a PE favorite “Get Your Trash Off My Lawn.” This is a first for them and they had a blast while practicing their overhand and underhand throwing. In health class, we focused on nutrition and the importance of eating healthy foods. We talked about the food groups, the importance of nutrients, and how the foods

we eat can affect our overall health. We also focused on our monthly character trait: caring. We discussed the importance of how we can show others that we care and have empathy. In December, we will play games that build on our throwing and catching skills, practice with jump ropes, and do fitness and holiday-themed activities. December’s health unit will focus on Community, Health & Safety, violence prevention depending on grade level and continuing on our caring character trait.



Spanish

¡Wonderful noviembre! Grades K-1 have been talking about the months of the year, the days of the week, and grouping them in their appropriate time frames. We can understand basic questions about the calendar and respond in Spanish. Grades 2-4 have been practicing listening skills with our Word of the Day, where they hear letters in Spanish and try to figure out what the word is. We have been talking

about vocabulary in context with photos and their chosen “stuffies” and what they see. It is a natural way to learn language, and they love it! Grades 5-6 have been working on our Cien Verbos, 100 Verbs, so that when we start to read more, we will have a great foundation for comprehension.



Preschool

AM: In November we learned about trees, color mixing and thanksgiving. We measured around the tree trunk and learned that this is the circumference, we also learned about the parts of the tree and put leaves in our sensory bin. We worked together as a class to make a class tree with ripped pieces of construction paper. We had a lot of fun using model magic to mix colors together to make a new color.

We learned the letters E, H, T and numbers 2 and 3. We continue to practice sorting, patterns, counting and sharing. We celebrated 2 birthdays this month!





We continued show and tell and named things we are thankful for. In December we will finish our tree study and learn about holidays.

PM: This month we learned about color mixing, nutrition, thanksgiving and dinosaurs. We painted a color wheel and used our fingers to mix the colors. We learned about making healthy food choices and eating sweets in moderation, we also watched a dinosaur egg hatch in water. We continued show and tell and watched the 4-6th grade students parade around with their balloons that they made. In December we will learn about hibernation, gingerbread and holidays. We are also looking forward to our winter show.



Kindergarten

During November, the kindergarten class learned the difference between fiction and nonfiction text. They have been listening to a variety of texts read aloud. We have been learning about the parts of a book. The class has done an excellent job writing in their journals during writing workshop. They are using phonetic spelling to write their words. We have been enjoying a variety of activities in our literacy centers. In our next unit, 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. In our next reading unit, we will read many stories about animals. We will also be learning to recognize adjectives.

In

math, we are currently working on sorting and classifying objects. Our next module will focus on addition and subtraction equations. We have been working in small groups to complete math center activities on various levels. This month in social studies we have been learning about the past and present. We observed and discussed how things have changed. We learned about the Pilgrims and Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving. We learned how the Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons are made. We worked on many projects, crafts, and activities for Thanksgiving. We also learned about turkeys and how to make many crafts for Thanksgiving.

First Grade

There has been a lot of change happening in first grade this month. Ms. Petty left for a different job and Mrs. Samuels has joined us to take first grade through the holidays!



We have continued working on red (sight) words and letter sounds during our Phonics time. We worked on two-syllable words and have just started on two-letter blends! This should take us into December, when we may add in some ending blend sounds. Our reading skills are definitely coming along! In math, we have finished module three where we started adding three numbers. We had our module test and have just begun Module 4: Relationships between Addition and Subtraction. We will be working on fact families and learning how we can use them to help us solve math problems. In addition to our regular Social Studies lessons on Neighborhood Helpers, we have been doing some fun Thanksgiving activities and learning about the pilgrims and how they were helped by Native Americans when they first arrived. So, this ties right in with our Social Studies theme: the Wampanoag were terrific neighbors to the original settlers of Massachusetts Bay!



Second Grade

This month, second-grade students have been overflowing with gratitude. We kicked off the month with a daily "Grateful Journal," where we shared numerous reasons to start each day with a smile and a thankful heart. Our students expressed their kindness by writing heartfelt notes to Veterans and collecting food for local families.

In addition to these acts of kindness, we learned a special song in sign language, which we hope to share with our loved ones during Thanksgiving. In math, our focus has been on extending counting sequences within 1,000, including counting by 1s, 5s, 10s, and 100s. Students are also mastering the

concepts of identifying 10 more and 10 less for three-digit numbers, and soon we will be comparing three-digit numbers using symbols.

In reading, students have been engaged with various fiction stories, emphasizing the understanding of dialogue to better comprehend story characters. We have been honing our inference-making skills by connecting our unique background knowledge to the text, allowing us to delve deeper into the author's purpose and the characters' thoughts. This month, we enjoyed reading diverse chapter books, including "Flat Stanley" by Jeff Smith. We looked forward to applying our new reading skills, such as inferencing and visualizing. Additionally, we had fun completing a Turkey-themed book report.

In writing, we explored descriptive writing through our five senses, culminating in a piece titled "My Favorite Place." Our social studies lessons have taught us to navigate various maps using intermediate directions and grids to locate places. In science, students investigated how the structures of seeds aid in their dispersal, focusing on seeds that use animals for assistance. We developed models of furry animals to test how far different seed structures could travel.

As we look forward to December and the exciting seasonal learning activities ahead, we wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!



Third Grade

This is becoming bittersweet. This is my last month with Third Grade. We have become scientists learning about life cycles, mosquitoes, and fossils. Our mathematicians are becoming multiplication experts. I am so proud of them for persevering through their multiplication facts. They have been learning about figurative language in Language Arts. We see many examples in our readings. The students get a kick out of it. It is such a joy to hear them read aloud. They get into character in our book

club. Thank you for letting me into your children's life. Teaching is my passion and they make me happy to come to work every day.



Fourth Grade

It was a great pleasure meeting with you all during parent-teacher conferences at the beginning of the month! Sharing your shining star student's progress is always a delight. Though we are only offered twenty minutes to share, it's a treasured time and the dialogue and feedback is very much appreciated! We hope you were able to see the final character pumpkins the

class so beautifully created. They really enjoyed the October book response project!

We have had a super busy month in fourth grade! We completed our Geography Unit. From migration to longitude and latitude, terraced landscapes, and time zones, this comprehensive unit also segued into discussions regarding the Presidential, local, and state elections, government, citizenship, and the importance of voting. During our weekend updates, we have been improving our public speaking skills, communication, eye contact, asking thoughtful questions, and offering comments to our peers. We are practicing our reading fluency with the understanding of mood and inflection, and this skill carried through to our turn reading the morning announcements. This class delivers each bit of our daily news information with confidence and fluidity.

We are official participants in The Great Mail Race! This wonderful activity started with a mailed letter invitation from a school in Massachusetts. We read their letter and informational questionnaire about all things Massachusetts, and we responded to them with our NJ Questionnaire. We then prepared 50 envelopes and questionnaires to address and send to 50 fourth-grade classes around the country. We hope to get 50 responses by June. We will mark our classroom map with a star for each state we receive a response from, and we hope to get a lot more understanding of the states and the fourth graders from around America!

Spelling practice pays off in so many ways! The students have figured out that the more they practice their words and apply our wacky English language spelling rules, the better spellers they are becoming! We have been doing hand-to-paper spelling and spelling homework practice pages. But the class really shines during our Thursday Spelling Bee. This is a terrific showcase and supportive environment for all types of spelling learners. The class never wants to miss Spelling Bee Thursday.

Groups have been naturally forming and the students are achieving high levels of success during all of our academic periods. Knowing how the students perform to their best abilities with different classmates is beneficial for our next months of science experiments and group science activities. All of our hands-on work will surely intrigue our 4th-grade scientists, who are already very astute with their hypotheses and predictions at every turn of the page.

We began our new novel study, *Frindle*, by Andrew Clements. The class is fully engrossed in the world of fifth grader, Nick Allen and are making excellent predictions about what will happen next at Lincoln Elementary with Nick, his teacher, and classmates.

The fifth-grade class came to our class for a super fun games session. We enjoyed playing Apples to Apples Junior. We had a lot of laughs and a great time interacting with our friends from fifth.



Gratitude is abundant this year in fourth grade. We are grateful for all of the learning and lessons we have shared this first trimester. Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels. Can't wait for our December lessons and activities!



Fifth Grade

It's been a busy month of November, leading into an even busier month of December here in Fifth Grade. In ELA, we have finished up our unit on personal narratives, as well as our first MyView unit, Journeys. In both reading and writing, we've looked at the way that our



surroundings and experiences shape ourselves and others as we grow and change. To put a bow on both units, we're currently researching a country and creating a travel brochure to encourage others to visit. Students aren't just finding interesting facts and data, but they are tailoring their final product to speak to a specific audience: whether it's families with children, people looking for a fun getaway, or experienced travelers. Either way, their focus is on ways that experiencing new places and things can shape us all.

Fifth-grade mathematicians have been hard at work brushing up on two key concepts: understanding and calculating the volume of rectangular solids, and understanding expressions, and the order of operations. More recently, we have been laying the groundwork for the topic that will be our major area of focus for the next months: Fractions. I'm happy to report that the class is demonstrating an excellent grasp of how fractions work, what they represent, and how to manipulate them to solve problems.

We have also learned some new math games to help us brush up on our basic facts. Games like *800 Shakedown!* ask students to roll three dice, multiply the facts, and subtract the total to get down to

exactly zero. It's a great way to practice mental multiplication and subtraction, and since there are three factors at play, major comebacks can and do happen all the time!

We have wrapped up our first major science unit of the year on ecosystems and food chains, and are moving into a study of the earliest European explorers. By taking a look at the pre-Columbian world in Europe and the Americas, we can examine not

just the *whens and whos*, but more importantly the *hows and whys* behind the story of the Old World and the New World coming together and leading into the truly global age of history.

The month of December is sure to be filled with fun, activities, and lots of we learning. As we move into the winter season, we wish everyone a Happy Holiday. We look forward to checking in with everyone at LBS again in 2025!



Sixth Grade

In November and December, we are focused on the fantasy genre in reading. We completed *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and have just begun C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. We began by learning about the setting of the story: children evacuated from London during the Blitz. The sixth graders spent some time exploring the BBC website on World War II, including primary sources such as photos and first-person memoirs from people who were evacuated as children from London during the bombings. Once we have completed that, we will be ready to begin our novel! Our adventures with Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy should take us into the middle of December when we will focus on some short stories and fun holiday activities.

In social studies, we finished up our studies on River Civilizations in which we learned about Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China. We have begun our exploration of MesoAmerican civilization, beginning with the Aztec and Maya. This will go into December and, possibly, beyond. In science, we continued the interaction of organisms segment of our unit and have begun working on an assignment concerning invasive species.

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



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

Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org