



# THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

February 2022

## Mr. Arcurio's Corner

It is hard to believe that we are more than halfway through the school year now! Our staff and students have been continuing to work hard through the winter to continually strive for improvement. During the months of January and February, our children learn about the experiences that inspired greatness in people like Dr. Martin Luther King



Jr., George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln. With Presidents' Day and Black History Month upon us, it is a wonderful opportunity to have discussions with children about how our circumstances (and experiences) can lead us to greatness. We don't always seek out a path, sometimes we are thrust into it and our actions speak for us. We know that all of our children possess greatness, whether it is in academics, sports, compassion, kindness, public speaking, or even sense of humor. We work to provide experiences that help all children find their greatness. It usually starts with finding what they enjoy. Who knows what they will achieve in the future?

Important Dates	
Feb 7	PTA Mtg (6:30pm)
Feb 15	PTA Pizza Lunch
Feb 15	BOE Meeting (6:30pm)
Feb 21	School Closed - Presidents Day
Mar 2	School Closed - Teacher InService

## Health/Covid Update

Last Thursday's weekly Covid Activity Level Report indicated that we have moved from the Red (Very High Transmission) to the Orange (High Transmission) level. With this change in status, there are some changes in our practices here at LBS. Below is a synopsis of the changes.

- Basketball Intramurals resume
- Instrumental Music lessons resume
- Safety Patrol resumes
- We will no longer use the desk shields at lunch (distance will still be maintained)
- In-person meetings will resume (BOE, PTA, Faculty, etc.)

Please note that the revised quarantine guidance that was shared earlier this month is still in place. [Here is a succinct graphic of these guidelines.](#)



Please be sure to continue to prescreen your child each morning, keep them home if they have symptoms, and notify the school nurse. Your efforts help to keep us all healthy and keep our school open each day.

Better Together,  
Bruce Arcurio  
Lead Learner/Superintendent

**BETTER TOGETHER!**

## Office Items

### Emergency Closing/Delay Information



Just a reminder that it is 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](http://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.

## Health Office...

*Bully-Free Zone:* As we go into February, the students will continue learning about Fairness. Fairness includes:

- Playing by the rules
- Being open-minded, Listening to others
- Not taking advantage of others
- Not blaming others carelessly

Please encourage your child to treat others equally regardless of their ideas, opinions or moral standards. Let's all be better together!



*Nurse's News:* With the increased use of computers, TV watching, and smartphones, our eyes are at risk of becoming strained. Digital eye strain is caused by staring at a computer screen for too long. Digital eye strain can cause headaches, blurred vision, and dry or watery eyes. Follow the 20-20-20 Rule and give your eyes a break. If you or your child are experiencing vision changes, please consult with your eye doctor.

## Art



The students demonstrated great flexibility this month. Depending on the type of school day, students were juggling a couple of projects per grade. The 4th, 5th and 6th Graders will be preparing their contour line drawings for presentation. They were also able to try their hand at different methods of drawing from life other than using contour lines. In the next month, they can expect to take a dive into color theory by mixing primary colors to attempt to make other color families. The 2nd and 3rd Graders grateful bowls are made and ready to glaze. They've also started to make paintings in the style of the recently passed artist, Wayne Thiebaud. I'm so looking forward to seeing simple forms be transformed into yummy-looking desserts. They spent one day making books from a single sheet of paper. These books will be an ongoing project throughout the rest of the year to collect and organize new art vocabulary. The kindergarten and 1st graders have drawn their families and will be

practicing their painting skills to apply watercolor. Painting techniques are so important to practice as it is a task that they will repeat as they progress as artists. They've also begun work on agamographs while they were learning from home. We will continue working on this impressive project on and off throughout the year. I'm so

proud of the students' abilities to pivot when plans changed and their continued willingness to keep trying new techniques and art projects.

### **Enrichment, A.T., BSI**

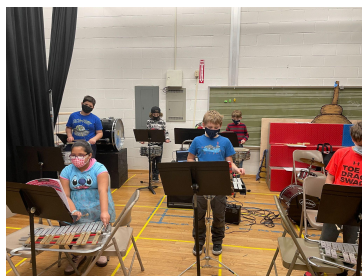
Students in Enrichment and Media are ready for the Winter Olympics! We learned about the location of this year's games, and students 2-6 have conducted research on a chosen US athlete that will be competing in the games. We will be tracking their progress in February! Students also researched and learned about some of the interesting winter sports while completing a research presentation in Google Slides.

Students in AT have been working on their proposals for their selected Genius Hour project which is a self-selected project representing either community or school service, creativity, acquisition of knowledge, or problem-solving. Stay tuned!

### **Music**

During the month of January, the lower grades began exploring the families of the orchestra. Through this unit, we have been learning about the size-pitch relationship, which instruments belong to each family, and how sound is created on each instrument. As part of this unit, we also tied into science where we talked about where sound comes from, how sound travels, and we even did some sound experiments. Next month we will continue with some family matching activities and instrument recognition games. Once the instrument unit is complete, we will be moving on to work on some rhythm performance pieces using our personal percussion kits.

The upper grades are currently working on rhythm dictation and identification. We have also been working on our math skills as we find the relationship between rhythm and fractions. This rhythm and meter work is in preparation for our rhythm composition project coming up in February. The students will be creating their own rhythm pieces in 4/4 time and will be performing them as well. The 3rd-grade students will be moving on from rhythm to focus on reading pitches on the treble clef in preparation for our recorder unit this spring.



While we certainly miss being able to fully play our instruments in the band, we are really making the most of our time while we wait for it to be safe to fully resume our activities. The woodwind and brass players have been working on their hand-eye coordination and expanding our ranges on our instruments. Our reading skills have gotten especially strong since we are able to fully focus on this without the added component of simultaneously worrying about embouchure. Working in this way has been great for developing our practice skills and learning how to break apart a challenging piece. The 5th/6th-grade band also began reading key signatures in order to fully understand the use of sharps, naturals, and flats. We are excited to start some new repertoire next month! The 5th/6th percussion and 6th-grade bass guitar group also began working on a really fun arrangement of Santana's "Oye Como Va" which was created just for this group!

### **Physical Education/Health**

This January in PE we practiced hand striking games. These games and activities help to further develop hand-eye coordination. Due to my time away and snow days we didn't get to do as much as I'd like so, I will continue my instruction of games such as Nukem', table ball, and volleyball. The picture is of our younger students practicing with balloons. Older students learned both Striker Ball and 4-Square. Health in January

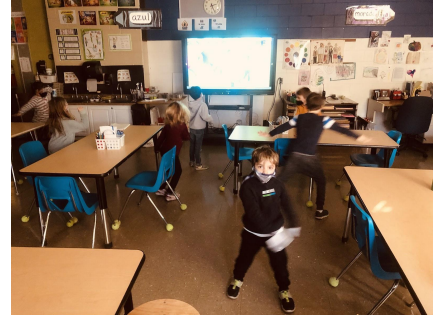


focused on the effects of Tobacco\Vaping and Alcohol & Drugs use. This unit will be extended through February as well.

### **Spanish**

We are having a blast en la clase de español! Kindergarten students have started identifying parts of the body through a song called Tengo Comezón (“I have an itch...!”) First and second-grade students have been using listening skills to identify school supplies, and playing matching and memory games to reinforce vocabulary words. We have been jamming and dancing to our Spanish Go Noodle song, La Ensalada (The Salad! See picture below!)

Grades 3-6 have been watching a music video called “No Lo Tengo” about a girl who always seems to forget her school supplies for each class. She faces many minutos of castigo (detention) for all of her forgetfulness! This video is a great example of grammar in context where we can talk about how each noun in Spanish is either masculine or feminine and how that affects all of the words around it. Our conjugation chant has helped us remember the order of Spanish conjugations. We have started learning about more verb conjugations and comparing English language verb conjugation to Spanish—it is similar but also very different. Our Spanish knowledge is growing and growing!



### **Preschool**

AM:

We have had a crazy month! We have been learning about clothes, snow, and winter. We looked at different types of clothes and said what they protect, how to care for clothes and all the different uniforms. We colored mittens for our bulletin board and had some fake snow to play with in our sensory bin. We learned the letters K, P, U, and B, and we have also completed our mid-year assessments. In February we will celebrate the 100th day of school, Valentine’s, and start our balls unit. We will continue through our alphabet, and continue rhyming, patterns, counting, and opposites.

PM:

Wow, it's been a crazy month! We have learned about winter, snow, snowmen, and healthy eating. We made fake snow for our sensory bin, colored mittens for our bulletin board, learned the letters K, P, U, and B, and we completed our mid-year assessments. In February we will celebrate valentine's day, the 100th day of school, we will learn about the zoo, the ocean, and Dr. Seuss! We will continue through our alphabet, letter sounds, and continue rhyming, patterns, counting, and opposites.



### **Kindergarten**

This month in reading the kindergarten class is currently learning about exercise and why it is important. We are reading poems and persuasive texts about exercising. We are working on reading and writing words from the “e” word families and the “o” word families. We are continuing to build our sight word vocabulary. We recently began a new “sight word challenge” where the students can move along at their own pace and learn as many words as they are ready to learn. We continue to work each week on multiple phonics sounds

to help us blend and read more words. We are also learning to include adjectives in our writing. They are continuing to work on their mini books in the writer’s workshop. We are currently working on verbs.

Next month we will learn more about folktales and fairy tales.

This month in science, we have been studying animals and how they survive the cold winter weather. The students learned about hibernation, migration, and adaptation. They have been drawing and writing about what they learned. Next month in science we will finish our unit on seasons with a lesson about

why birds lay eggs in the spring. Then we will begin learning about sunlight and warmth.

In math, we completed our module focusing on counting sequences to count to 100. We are currently working on comparing numbers within 100. In our next module, we will focus on adding and subtracting within 10. We have been writing numbers to one hundred and getting excited to celebrate our 100th day of school soon!

The kindergarten class has also been learning about the Chinese New Year! The students are learning about the culture including customs, language, clothing, and foods. We are also making projects, doing Chinese math tangram puzzles, and listening to folktale stories about China to help us learn about the traditions during the Chinese New Year. We are also looking forward to celebrating both Groundhogs Day and Valentine's Day too!

Gung Hay Fat Choy! (Happy New Year!)



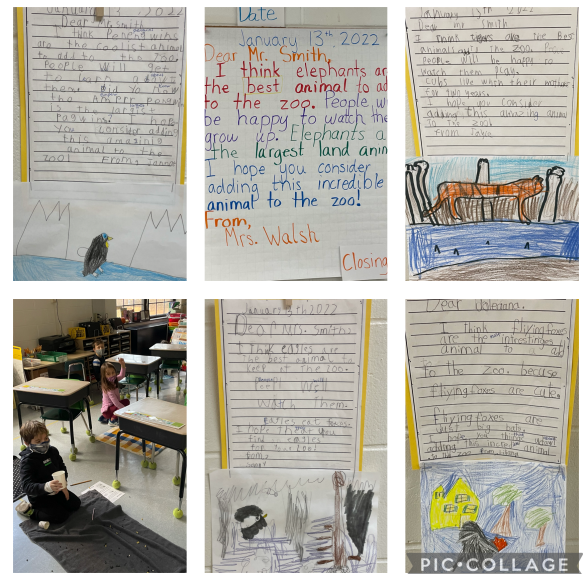
### **First Grade**

The first graders have become scientists! We recently started our Science unit called Plants and Animal Superpowers. Most recently, the students learned about animal adaptations such as why birds have certain beaks. Did you know that the warbler uses his beaks to pick out food, like tweezers? And a duck uses its beak to scoop food, like a spoon? This is what we learned when we conducted an experiment to understand why these birds' beaks are so different! Soon we will learn about how animals use camouflage to survive. Later, the students will choose an animal to research and write about! In honor of Black History Month, we will learn about many of the famous African Americans that have made this country so special! We will learn about Martin Luther King Jr., Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth. The students are so excited to explore these amazing people.

In Reading, the students have been reading fables. We've learned that fables have characters that are often animals, a lesson, a problem, and a solution. Most recently, we read The Ant and the Grasshopper. Now, we will move on to folktales. The students will learn that folktales are short stories, have simple problems, are known by many people, have tricky characters, and have a moral that readers can relate to. After this, we will revisit some poetry collections. Additionally, we continue to work on the strategies good readers use to read and comprehend text.

In Writing, the students have learned how to write persuasive letters. They all chose a different zoo animal and then wrote a letter to a zookeeper trying to persuade him/her to bring this animal to the zoo. All of our letters included opinions, reasons, and facts! Now, we are working on writing poems that include repetition, rhyme, and alliteration. They are all becoming fantastic writers!

In Math, the students have learned how to solve for the unknown using objects and drawings and write an equation that matches the word problem in Unit 5. We will continue to work on these strategies in Unit 6, along with learning how to represent equations where both addends are unknown, but a total is given. Additionally, we continue to work on our math fact fluency every day. Finally, we will celebrate our 100th day of school in the middle of February!



## **Second Grade**

January has come and gone in a flash! We navigated through lots of different types of learning this month, and the 2nd graders have been fantastic and resilient through it all! We have learned lots of new things this month. In Reading and Writing, we are learning about informational texts and will begin our bug informational text project soon, which ties in with our Science unit! We are learning all about animal kingdoms and how to classify different types of animals. Soon, we will be constructing our very own animals and the habitats that they live in for our classroom “zoo!” In Math, we are beginning our very important units of two and three-digit addition and subtraction. We have learned how to use our hundreds chart to help us “jump” up or down to get to the correct answer and to help us check our work. In February, we have lots to look forward to, like learning about Lunar New Year, Black History Month, and the 100th day of school! We will also get to put together our animal habitats for display and write our informational texts all about their classifications. It will be a short, but busy, month and we can't wait!

## **Third Grade**

Third-grade students have had a busy New Year! We spent quality time learning and discussing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and mission. We read about his early years and how difficult times as a child helped to steer his adult life. We learned how people can come together to make BIG changes in rules and laws. Our character education this month has focused on fairness. We have also worked with the concept of tolerance, equality, and impartiality, which made for some very good classroom discussions. In Science, we learned about the world's five major climates. We made a climate decoder to figure out the different climates of a given region. We then combined maps and searched for global climate patterns. We also explored the effects of natural hazards, such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and dust storms. In our science engineering activity, we designed a “Windproof House” from a paper model. Then, using materials, we engineered solutions that made the houses sturdy enough to survive a windstorm. It was very interesting to see our different solutions! In Social Studies, we are learning how to read maps and search maps using keys and intermediate directions. We've also been working with Latitude and Longitude lines so that we can find exact locations. We also learned about some of Earth's landforms. In Reading, we continue to focus on finding the main idea and identifying supporting details. We finished our second Reading Unit that focused on persuasive debates and informational text. We read a few stories supporting and dissuading the concept of wolves living in Yellowstone National Park. We also learned how to take notes and paraphrase for a research project investigating animal and plant relationships showing interdependence. In math, we are learning how to work through two-step word problems with the four operations, and it takes resilience! I'm proud of the efforts third grade has made in this challenging area! We're also learning how visual models are key to understanding multiple statements of data within a problem. In writing, we concluded a month-long “How To” essay with easy-to-follow steps. We also wrote a compare and contrast essay with dogs and foxes; it was a “Tail of two Animals”. We also identified and used prepositions to form poems with beautiful descriptive prepositional phrases. We're looking forward to our 100th Day in February!!

## **Fourth Grade**

Our current reading unit topic is Adaptations. We have been reading and discussing animal and plant adaptations in reading and in science. The children will be starting an Adaptation Book project next week during science based on all of the reading we have been doing. Each project will cover camouflage, mimicry, warning coloration, hibernation, and behavioral adaptation. The children will be picking animals that demonstrate these characteristics and explaining how it helps the animal. Over the past few weeks, we have learned that animals and plants have amazing adaptations to survive in the wild, and I am sure after sharing our projects we will all be experts in the area of Adaptations of Animals.

In Writing, as part of our nonfiction writing unit, we also created travel brochures for a country that the children would like to visit. We have also been working on answering questions using a **RACE** response strategy- **R**estate, **A**nswer, **C**ite, **E**xplain, which is a mnemonic device that helps the children include all parts of an answer to a question.

Over the last month, we have been working on learning long division. The children found out that it is extremely important to line up the numbers when doing long division. This is also the case now, as we are learning 2 digit times 2 digit multiplication! In the next module, we will be focusing on using multiplication to solve for area.

In Social Studies we have begun learning about the first people of New Jersey. We learned that people were able to walk from Asia to North America via the land bridge, Beringia. The children were amazed that was even possible. We also started learning about the first people of New Jersey, the Lenape. At the end of this week, we will be talking to another class via Skype, we will be asking yes or no questions to figure out where they are skyping us from. It should be a fun activity using our map skills that we learned earlier this year.

### **Fifth Grade**

As a part of our Spaceship Earth science unit, we've learned a lot about how our clock and our calendar are linked to the sky. A month, for instance, comes from the word *moonth*, or the 28-day cycle the Moon takes to grow full, before dissolving into a crescent and disappearing from the sky. It's hard to believe that January 2022, like the New Moon, has come and gone so quickly!

Speaking of the Moon, students, using flashlights and styrofoam spheres, were able to see for themselves why the Moon looks so different from week to week. (The leading theory of "shadows" turned out not to be correct!) We explored what makes Earth such an ideal planet, and considered what kinds of planets from solar systems might be able to support life. We have calculated the height of our jumps to help understand the effect of gravity on our vertical leaps on other planets. As we wrap up our outer space unit, students are encouraged to continue to explore the night sky to see what constellations, planets, and other celestial phenomena await in the spring.

Students have also created short presentations on a constellation of their choice, sharing the mythology and notable stars in that region of the sky. We've learned that many cultures, including the ancient Egyptians, made up their own stories about the patterns in the sky. Perhaps we will encounter some of these again as we begin our upcoming social studies unit...on ancient Egypt!

In math class, fifth grade is still knee-deep in fractions. After exploring what it means to add and subtract fractions, students have been making models and developing strategies to understand what is happening when two fractions are multiplied. We are currently working on multiplying mixed numbers and look forward to getting into dividing fractions soon. By the end of February, we should be working on standard units of measurement and decimals. The class has been making great headway in Dreambox, a digital math program, which builds in a lot of decimal content that should help get everyone ready for these critical skills on the horizon.

We are currently reading the Newbery Medal-winning novel *Number the Stars*, an inspiring and often harrowing piece of historical fiction. Students have been eager to learn about the historical context and sobering reality of what life was like in World War II-era Europe, as well as practicing the important skills of analyzing characters, setting, and theme.

### **Sixth Grade**

January can sometimes feel like a long month after all the excitement of the holidays...but it also allows us to get a lot accomplished! 6th grade has been working hard on several new units of study. In math, we have continued working through ratios and percents and began a new unit on algebra. We are covering slavery and the Underground Railroad in reading, and the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire in history, as well as working to eradicate invasive species in science!

Language Arts is keeping us particularly busy. We began a new novel study, *Elijah of Buxton*, an award-winning novel by Christopher Paul Curtis centering on the real-life community of Buxton, Canada -- the final destination for many on the Underground Railroad. It is a longer book than our previous novels, so we will continue it into February. In addition to the story itself, we have also been learning about The Missouri, Compromise, The Fugitive Slave Act, the role of Quakers in the Abolitionist Movement, and John Brown's push for a slave revolt. It has sparked a number of good discussions in class -- about slavery, about racism, and about our role in making the world a better place. In history, we are working on Rome. We covered the rise of Rome, the Roman Republic, and the Roman Empire. Next, we will compare Roman laws and rights to the U.S. Constitution and consider the influence of Rome on our country today. In February, we will learn about the rise of Christianity and the role of Rome in its spread over time. Lest this sound like a lot of dull reading, much of it is interspersed with role plays in which the students took on the roles of Roman citizens to overthrow the monarchy to become a republic. Next we were would-be emperors trying to save the Empire from falling. Sadly we didn't do any better than the true emperors -- Rome has fallen once again!

### **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.

