



# THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

February 2024

## Dr. Arcurio's Corner

January proved to be a cold and somewhat snowy month and no one knows what is in store for February. Please be sure that all of your information is updated at the main office so that we can contact you in the event of weather related schedule changes. Additionally, be sure to send your child with a warm coat daily. Although we do not have outdoor recess when the temperature is dangerously low, we try to get them outside whenever it is reasonable to do so.

February is a wonderful month. It is a month where we honor our presidents, we celebrate Black History, we observe American Heart Month, and Cancer Awareness, and we celebrate love on Valentines Day. At Lebanon Borough Elementary School, we believe in nurturing not only the minds but also the hearts of our students. Last month and this month we emphasize fairness as our character trait which includes



the importance empathy. During our morning announcements and throughout our daily instruction we infuse these concepts to help our children interact positively with each other and their world. Be sure to ask your children about the ways that they were fair and empathetic in your conversations with them.

Last week we added a new staff member to our LBS staff as a leave replacement in first grade. Please welcome Ms. Amanda Petty! She comes to us with a variety of experiences in elementary school and special education. Additionally, she worked in our preschool classroom several years ago as a paraprofessional. We look forward to all that our first graders will do with her!

In closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, students, and parents for their unwavering support and commitment to our school. It is through our collective efforts that we create a nurturing and enriching environment for our students to thrive.

Wishing you all a February filled with love, learning, and community.

Better Together,  
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Important Dates	
Feb 2	PTA School Dance 6pm
Feb 5	PTA Meeting 6:30pm
Feb 14	Walking School Bus 8am
Feb 15	BOE Meeting
Feb 16	12:45 PM Early Dismissal - Presidents Weekend
Feb 19	School Closed - Presidents Day
Feb 29	12:45 PM Early Dismissal - Teacher Inservice
Dates for planning purposes:	
May 7-8	5th Grade NJSLA Science Test
May 13-17	3rd-6th grade NJSLA ELA and Math Test
May 30	Spring Concert/Show



## Office Items

### **Preschool Registration (Spread the Word) - [See Flyer](#)**

Lebanon Borough School will begin Preschool Registration in January as follows:

- January 2nd-12th for students currently enrolled in the PreK program
- January 15th-February 2nd for families that live in Lebanon Borough
- February 5th-February 23rd for anyone in or out of district

New student registration forms can be found on our school website at [www.lebanonschool.org](http://www.lebanonschool.org) or email [rmuia@lebanonschool.org](mailto:rmuia@lebanonschool.org) for more information.

Families will be notified of enrollment by March 1st. Once spots are filled, registration will be closed, and you will be placed on a waitlist if you wish.

### **Kindergarten Registration - [See Flyer](#)**

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

### **Substitutes (Teacher, Paraprofessional, and Custodial)**

- We are in need of substitutes for this school year. If you or someone you know are interested please contact Tricia Duell at [tduell@lebanonschool.org](mailto:tduell@lebanonschool.org).

### **YMCA Before/After Care**

- [Registration](#)



### **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 change, please consult with your eye doctor.

## Safety Patrol

Congratulations, Daelynn Mora, you have been recognized as the Safety Patroller for the month of January. You've demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities and the qualities required to be a successful Safety Patrol leader. Every day, you have shown responsibility, generosity, and hospitality to the LBS community. Congratulations, and keep up the wonderful effort!



## Art

Kindergarten and First Grade students began their figure drawing lesson this month while also glazing their Wabi Sabi tea bowls. Next month we'll take our time working through this detailed drawing and practice proper application of watercolors. The second and third graders finished their still life paintings of yummy multi-tiered cakes. They were able to add lots of decorations using multiple media such as chalk pastels, colored pencils, and acrylic paint pens and create the illusion of form by applying a convincing value range. They've moved onto making their ceramic project of the year, which is a functional bowl. Students in grades 4 through 6 took multiple days to apply glaze to their vessels, which demonstrated how proud they were of their creations. They will spend the next month continuing work on their Grandma-Moses inspired scenes. This project is a wonderful way for the children to share personal stories that show pride in their communities and/or families while also learning new drawing skills like how to show depth and perspective in a landscape and proportionate figures.

As each class finishes an assignment, I've been updating our [Artsonia](#) page. Keep a lookout for emails about new works uploaded online and upcoming art shows at the North County Branch Library.



## Enrichment/Media/Technology

January was a crazy month! We are now back in the full swing of school.

K-5 grades have been practicing typing skills on TypeTastic.



Kindergartners listened to Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs. We compared and contrasted the two stories and then used STEAM centers kits to build sturdy chairs for Goldilocks and the three bears.

1st and 2nd graders practiced manipulating Google Slides by creating a digital snowman and then writing a paragraph about the snowman. 3rd graders learned about Wilson Bentley, the man who photographed snowflakes and discovered that there are no two alike! We then created snowflakes according to the patterns he has found. The trick will be following the patterns but making sure they are unique. Then the students were able to build their own snowflakes with Keva planks. We are currently finishing up poems about snowflakes using smilies and practicing





word processing in Google Docs. The students will also be making their poems into concrete poetry in Google slides in the shape of a snowflake.

4th and 5th grade complete a digital scavenger hunt using videos and Google Earth to answer the questions.

6th grade students are working on a Greek God/Goddess project. The students all have chosen a Greek God/Goddess to become an expert on and they are creating a Google Slides

presentation to teach the class about the god/goddess they chose.

**AT**

**3rd-4th Grade**

We have kicked off the year with a fun unit on electricity. We are discussing circuits, practicing making circuits with snap circuits and will be creating paper circuits.

**5th-6th Grade**

We started out the year as Smithsonian Museum Curators. The children are creating a new gallery for the Smithsonian. This gallery is about Famous

Failures and Challenges. The children are researching a topic of their choosing and creating a display on their topic/person. All items in the gallery will discuss a failure or challenge. We will be sharing the gallery with the 2nd and 3rd graders one gallery is curated.



**Music**

In January, we began working on our Spring Musical, Beauty and the Beast.

The sixth graders have been preparing for auditions. The fifth grade has been studying the film and the music for their ensemble roles. In fourth grade, we have started to perform musical exercises on the various instruments they have chosen for band, as an ensemble. The third grade has been working on treble clef note identification and the C major scale. Kindergarten through second has been focusing on increasing difficult rhythmic patterns. In preschool, we have been singing songs with different letters of the alphabet, identifying fast/slow, and high/low

**Physical Education/Health**

This January in PE we practiced hand striking games. The activities we practiced included 4 Square, table ball, Gaga Ball and volleyball. K through 2nd grade played 4 Square Balloon Bash. These games help to build on hand eye coordination while having fun of course. Pe-K continued to work on building on their motor-skills and practiced striking hitting balloons with their hands and different body parts like their knees, elbows, shoulders, feet and heads. This coming February the focus of PE will be basketball skills, games and activities.



**Spanish**

¡Exciting enero! In January, we all learned about a holiday celebrated in some Spanish-speaking countries called El Dia de los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day). This holiday is celebrated on January 5-6, and celebrates the Three Magi Kings bringing gifts to the Baby Jesus. Students learned about the tradition of leaving out shoes instead of stocking for treats from the Three Kings, and the **ROSCÓN DE REYES**, which is a special cake-like bread eaten at this special time. Students also learned about the tradition of eating Doce Uvas (12 Grapes)





at midnight to celebrate the New Year., We are hoping for a happy and healthy **DOS MIL VEINTE CUATRO (2024!)**

Kindergarten, grades 1, 2, and 3 are working on showing comprehension through movement. We throw bean bags, identify things in a group, and show what we know just by moving around. In grades 4, 5, 6, we are watching a telenovela called Buena Gente (Good People). We are using our developing listening skills to identify words, our growing comprehension skills to understand what is happening in the story, and we are adding to our expanding vocabulary with every episode. Leaps and bounds of learning!

**Preschool**

AM: This month in preschool we learned about winter and started our clothing unit. We continue to move through our handwriting without tears program leaning letters, numbers and shapes. We completed our mid year assessments and enjoyed a lot of inside playtime. In February we will celebrate the 100th day of school, valentine's day and learn about including everyone, we will start our wheels unit and continue to move through our alphabet. We hope to have more outside time in February.



PM: This month in preschool we learned about winter, snowmen, winter animals transportation and the zoo. We practiced ice skating with paper plates and made fake snow for our sensory bin. We have made it about half way through our alphabet learning the uppercase letters to start with. In February we will celebrate the 100th day of school, valentine's day and learn about including everyone. We will continue to move through our handwriting without tears program leaning letters, numbers and shapes.



**Kindergarten**

This month in reading the kindergarten class has been 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 short “e” and short “o” word families. We are continuing to build our sight word vocabulary. We recently began a new “sight word challenge” called: “Read the Rainbow” 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 write in our journals. Next month we will learn more about folktales and fairy tales we will

also learn about verbs.

This month in science, we have been learning all about 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. We have also been learning about the circle of seasons and the weather patterns for our seasons here in New Jersey. Next month, in science, we will finish our unit on seasons with a lesson about why birds lay eggs in the spring.

In math we completed our module focusing on representing addition and subtraction within 5 using objects and drawings. In our next module we will be working on representing numbers 6 to 10 with

objects and with a written numeral. 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 Groundhogs Day this week with our six grade friends.



### First Grade

This month has been a very busy one for the first grade class! After Mrs. Walsh left for her maternity leave, we were able to have Mr. B as a substitute teacher and we got right back to work upon returning from winter break. In Reading and Writing, we continued to learn about informational texts, and read lots of stories that taught us about different non-fiction topics.

During Math time, we learned all about using pictures to help us solve addition and subtraction word problems. We learned some key words in word problems, and how they can help us solve for the answer that we need to find.

In Science, we learned about animal “superpowers” and what types of qualities animals have to survive. We learned about the qualities of a bird’s beak, and how different animals camouflage into their environment to keep them safe from predators!

We had the opportunity to combine with the second grade class, and got to take part in all types of fun activities! We read *The Big Cheese*, and learned about what it means to be a good sport, and different ways that we can be proud of our own “cheddar-ific” qualities. We also learned about where bugs and animals go in the winter, and were able to build ladybug “houses” in groups so that ladybugs could escape the cold.

Our new teacher, Ms. Petty started at the end of the month and we look forward to February and the remainder of the year. Be on the lookout for an opportunity to meet and greet with her in the next several weeks.



### Second Grade

This past month in second grade has been a whirlwind! Coming back from winter break is always a challenge, but it is not one that this class can’t push through! We are officially halfway through the school year, and have made it far in our learning! We were so lucky to be joined by the first graders this month as they transitioned to their new teacher, as Mrs. Wales is on maternity leave!

In English Language Arts, we have spent this month learning about different types of legends, fables, and folktales. We are reading about legends and learning about different Indigenous tribes in the United States, and what types of legends they told and were passed down through generations. We also had the opportunity to read *The Big Cheese* with the first graders, and discuss all of the ways that we can be a good sport, and what makes us feel proud about ourselves!



**BETTER TOGETHER!**

In Math, we are continuing to work on the importance of place value and learning how to use our hundreds chart. Soon, we will be able to apply these skills to two and three-digit addition and subtraction problems and word problems! It is the most important skill we will learn during our time in math as second graders, and we are working very hard to master it in the coming weeks! During Social Studies time, we continue to learn the importance of families and their traditions. We completed our life timeline projects, and had so much fun learning about all the important moments in each other's lives. During Science, we partnered with the first graders to learn about where bugs go in the winter, and created special "houses" for ladybugs to escape the cold. We are looking forward to a fun February! We will celebrate Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school, and continue all of our important learning!



### **Third Grade**

Third grade students have had a busy New Year! We spent quality time reading, learning, and discussing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and his mission of equality for all people. 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. We each learned a specific part within a beautiful poem written for Dr. King called, "Standing Tall". Our character education this month focused on fairness. We had the pleasure of housing the kindness Gnome. We worked with the concept of tolerance, equality, and what makes someone a true hero. In writing we learned how to take notes and paraphrase for a small research writing project investigating animal and plant relationships showing interdependence. We wrote compare and contrast essays exploring two desert animals. We are also developing historical fiction stories based on what we've learned about this genre. We recently read about the historical time period of the Titanic disaster through the eyes of a child -3rd Class passenger, the challenging time of racial inequity during a time when our country was segregated and rights were not equal, and the time of difficulties for pioneers in the 1800s. Now we are reading to find OUR favorite historical time to dive into! We also wrote winter haiku poems relating to nature. In math we have been estimating sums and differences with great success. We are learning to expand numbers to add and subtract quickly and accurately. We're learning to estimate for "reasonableness". Soon we'll be learning about perimeter, as well as graphing from data tables. In social studies we just completed our unit on North American Native people. We learned that each region was home to many different tribal people with unique and beautiful cultures. In science we discovered how selection isn't always caused by human beings, such as in the case of dog breeds, but sometimes other, non-human factors can cause selection to happen. We learned the story of the Florida anoles, and how these two lizard species survival is an example of "natural selection", specifically for the green anole. We look forward to celebrating the Hundreth's Day of School and Valentine's Day!



## **Fourth Grade**

Our fourth grade stars continue to shine brightly in 2024. We packed in a whole lot of learning during this fast paced month of January. We celebrated the new year with big words we would like to be remembered by, inspired by lessons of US civil rights activists, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We studied his “I Have a Dream Speech,” viewed “Our Friend Martin,” and read,

*Martin’s Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* by Doreen Rappaport.

The students created our very own classroom memorial mountain they dubbed, “Mount Activists” which features short informational bios of various American activists. They also created their own “big words” quotes display board with their eloquent messages to others they wish to be known and remembered for. These lessons tied in beautifully with the culmination of our social studies unit, *How Americans Live*.



The class is doing really well with their Rocket Math multiplication and division fast facts. Their mastery of the facts is very important as we are now learning long division in Module 7.



Our current novel is *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* by Florence and Richard Atwater. The class is enjoying learning about the poles, the penguins, and the notion of having live penguins as pets. The book was written in 1938 and filled with ‘brand new’ vocabulary words, as well as many figurative language devices to analyze.

The class is super engaged in a variety of weekly S.T.E.A.M. activities. Most recently, we challenged ourselves to make three shapes from a single sheet of paper; a cylinder, a triangle, and a cube. They had to predict which shape would support the most books. Cylinder supported 32(!) novels, and the



students understood that it was the strongest due to its ability to disperse stress throughout its entirety.

We are looking forward to delivering the morning announcements for the month of February, learning about sound energy in science, and celebrating the 100th day of school!



## **Fifth Grade**

It’s hard to believe that we’re already a full month into the New Year! In math, Grade 5’s focus has remained on fractions. After adding and subtracting, we are now just wrapping up with multiplying fractions and mixed numbers. Students have been busy creating models and devising different methods of going about the multiplication. Ultimately, they are realizing that no matter how you go about representing or modeling the problem, the answer comes out the same. Next, we’ll dig into what division with fractions means, and then move ahead to learn about the

fraction’s “second cousin” – decimals!

Writing class has seen students hard at work researching, drafting, revising and editing informational articles about one of the eight planets (and the Sun) of our solar system. This process has also served as a lens to see just how much our knowledge of the universe has expanded over the course of just a few decades. Looking at books from the 1950s, 1990s, and today show a dramatic difference in the



**BETTER TOGETHER!**



quality of images and our understanding of our interstellar neighbors (particularly how many moons they have!) At home and in class, students continue to read for at least 15 minutes a night and summarize the key plot developments and character moments in their novels.



After spending a month studying and contemplating the universe beyond our planet, we've moved back into social studies and our "Exploring the Americas" unit. We've studied the earliest European explorers and analyzed what made them (and the countries that sent them) undertake risky voyages into uncharted territory. We've also assessed the impacts of these voyages on Europeans and the native peoples of North, South, and Central America.

### Sixth Grade

January began with fits and starts this year. We had holidays, snow days, and delayed starts galore. Nevertheless, the 6th graders and I are shocked to find ourselves in February already. In January we started our 4th novel, *Elijah of Buxton*, and now find ourselves about halfway through. This is a wonderful story that ties together the threads of the Underground Railroad, slavery and freedom with the coming of age of the title character, Elijah. The story started slowly, but by now, everyone is invested in the story of Elijah, Cooter, Mr. Leroy and Old Flapjack! Ask your student about it! When we finish this, we will begin prep work for our next novel, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*.

The weather did manage to slow us down in math. We spent most of January on Module 8, learning about expressions and equations. This is a tough module at the best of times, so I was pleased that we managed to complete the module AND do well on the test last week. We are moving forward to finding solutions for our equations - which in pre-algebra means something different than it does in earlier grades!

In science we completed our unit on biodiversity in ecosystems. Each student has also been assigned a biome to research and write a report on, primarily at home, although we have had some research time in class. They will further extend this topic by creating a model of their biome to share with the class. In the meantime, we are starting to move on to some fun Force and Motion STEM activities in the classroom

In history, we are finishing Ancient Greece and the Greek Empire, with a unit test oncoming in the not-too-distant future. We will then move on to Ancient Rome and the Roman Empire.

### Donate to the PTA and Stay Informed

- Our PTA is a wonderful organization that works in conjunction with the school to provide students with enriching opportunities that could not happen without its support. Field trips, assemblies, family events, supplies, and equipment are just a few of the many ways that our PTA supports the children of Lebanon Borough. Please be sure to donate to the PTA!
- The PTA is also using the Remind tool to keep parents up to date on all things LBS PTA. Please use the instruction sheet linked here to sign up.
  - [Donation Form and Remind Instructions](#)

