



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

February, 2025

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

January brought us a mix of cold temperatures and some snowy days, and February is sure to keep us on our toes! As always, please ensure that your contact information is up to date with the main office so we can reach you in case of weather-related schedule changes. Additionally, please send your child to school with a warm coat each day. While we keep students indoors when temperatures are dangerously low, we make every effort to get them outside whenever conditions allow. Fresh air and movement are essential for their well-being!

February is a month filled with meaningful celebrations and observances. We honor our nation's presidents, celebrate Black History Month, recognize American Heart Month and Cancer Awareness, and, of course, spread kindness and love on Valentine's Day. At



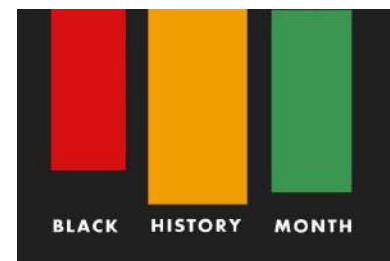
Lebanon Borough School, we are committed to developing not only strong minds but also compassionate hearts. This winter, we continue our focus on *fairness* as our character trait, which includes fostering empathy. Through morning announcements, classroom discussions, and daily interactions, we encourage students to consider the perspectives of others and act with kindness. Ask your child about the ways they've practiced fairness and empathy—you may be surprised by their thoughtful responses!

As we move through the winter months, we want to take a moment to recognize the resilience and dedication of our students. The mid-year point is a great time to celebrate their progress and encourage them to stay motivated in their learning. Whether it's mastering a new math concept, improving reading skills, or showing kindness to a classmate, every accomplishment matters. Let's continue working together to support their growth and

success!

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.

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio, Ed.D.
Superintendent



BETTER TOGETHER!

YMCA Before/After Care

- [Registration](#)

Safety Patrol

Congratulations to Kalyani Deshpande for being recognized as the Safety Patroller for January! Kalyani is a standout student who dedicates herself fully to her endeavors. Currently serving as the team captain, she demonstrates strong leadership skills by delegating daily and weekly tasks to her peers and providing guidance and support to her teammates. Congratulations, this recognition is well deserved. Keep up the good work.



Student Council

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Student Council food drive. The LBS community donated a total of 115 pounds! The soup cans, cake mix, and all the other items we donated helped the people in need in Hunterdon County. Again thank you all!



In addition to that, to begin the month, the Student Council leaders Utkarsh (treasurer), Kalyani (vice president and secretary), and Charlie (president) took a field trip on the 8th of January to learn all about other middle school's and high school's Student Councils. Almost two thousand students from around New Jersey came out to the TCNJ campus.

The students elected student officers for the NJ Association of Student Councils for 2025. We got to hear some of them present speeches and we voted for which one we thought was best for each position. Some of them even stopped to talk to us as they campaigned for votes.

-Charlie, Kalyani, and Utkarsh – Student Council Officers



Safe Routes to School: Winter Walking School Bus

On Thursday, January 16th Lebanon Borough School attended the *Winter Walk* participating in the "Hunterdon County Safe Routes to School Program" which educates our students on walking to school safely. Students received a sticker for coming along. Please join us on our next

Walking School Bus this spring! Hope to see you there!



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: *Tips for staying hydrated during the winter*

1. Encourage regular water intake: Even when it's cold outside, make sure your children drink plenty of water throughout the day.
2. Offer warm drinks: Warm beverages like herbal teas, hot chocolate, broths or soups can both smooth and hydrate.
3. Hydrating through foods matters: Include fruits and veggies like oranges, cucumber, and apples that help keep you hydrated.
4. Avoid sugary drinks: Limit sugary sodas and juices. Opt for water or naturally flavored drinks instead.
5. Use a humidifier: Prevent dry air from causing

dehydration by using a humidifier at home.



Art

We are excited to share that some of our students will have their artwork displayed at the North Hunterdon Library in Clinton this March! This is a wonderful opportunity for our young artists to showcase their creativity. Please mark your calendars and encourage your child to visit the library to see their work on display.

Celebrations from this January

We have had an incredible month filled with creativity and learning:

- Our kindergarten through second-grade students celebrated Chinese New Year by making beautiful hand-printed dragons. Their enthusiasm and creativity shone through in each piece!
- Additionally, students learned about self-portraits and created their own unique representations. It was a joy to see their individuality expressed on paper.
- Our third to sixth graders have been exploring a one-point perspective in art. They are currently working on various one-point perspective drawings, showcasing their understanding of depth and space.

These accomplishments highlight the amazing talents of our students and the hard work they put into their projects. We are so proud of their creativity and dedication!



Enrichment/Media/Technology

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

Kindergartners and 1st graders learned about Martin Luther King Jr. and discussed how we can be better friends and classmates in honor of Dr. King, Jr.

Kindergarten students also listened to many different snowman stories and built "igloos" with different building materials for their snowmen to stay cold!





1st graders practiced manipulating Google Slides by creating a digital snowman and then writing a five-senses poem about their snowman.

2nd and 3rd graders learned about Wilson Bentley, the man who photographed snowflakes, and discovered that there are no two alike! We then created snowflakes in Google drawing according to the patterns he has found. The trick will be following the patterns but making sure they are unique.



4th and 5th graders learned different Google skills using Google applied skills. The 5th grade created their own battleship game in Google Sheets. The 4th graders are creating their own digital timelines. The children will be creating digital timelines to help present their information for the upcoming WAX MUSEUM in April.

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.

Music

In January, we began working on our Spring Musical, High School Musical! The sixth and fifth grade have auditioned for the show and they all know their roles. We are currently working on the show by studying the movie first and learning the major numbers in the production. 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 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, game,s and activities.



Spanish

Exciting enero! In January, we talked 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. In grades 4-6, we have been talking about preferences. Do we prefer winter or summer? Do we prefer dogs or cats? Fruits or vegetables? Students learned to ask and answer questions like that in Spanish.

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. We have done a juego with our hands called CHOCOLATE....ask your student to show you their hand movements!



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, and transportation. We 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 reading a variety of texts. We are working on rhyming and reading and writing words in word families. The class is learning to recognize the main idea and details in a text. 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. They are continuing to write in our journals. Next month we will learn about persuasive text.

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. Next, we will be learning about the circle of seasons and the weather patterns for our seasons here in New Jersey.

In math, we are working to complete our modules 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 also begin writing numbers up to one hundred. We are getting excited to celebrate our 100th day of school soon!

The kindergarten class has also been learning about the Chinese New Year! The students learn 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 Groundhog Day next week.

First Grade

We hope everyone is having a great start to 2025! I'm so glad to be back in school with our awesome students and staff! We are working on reviewing routines, rules, and procedures. In Science, the students just finished a unit on Animal Superpowers. Later, we will move on to a unit on light and sound.

In reading, we've been working on retelling stories using beginning, middle, and end, and identifying the characters, problem, solution, and setting. In the coming weeks, we will read various fables, poems, and nonfiction books. We will also continue to work on our spelling patterns. In writing, we just began our "How-to" writing projects. Each student chose something they know how to do well and will write a step-by-step book. In our writing, we are using how to use transition words like First, next, then, and last.

In math, we just wrapped up a module on tens and ones. Later, we will learn how to draw and write numbers up to 120 and continue to build on our knowledge of tens and ones. Additionally, we are working on learning our math facts automatically.

Finally, we are very excited to celebrate Groundhog Day, the 100th day of school, and Valentine's Day in February!



Second Grade

The students have had a busy and exciting start to the New Year! We've spent some meaningful time learning about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his mission for equality. We explored his early life and how the challenges he faced as a child influenced his work as an adult. We also discussed how people can unite to bring about significant changes in laws and society. Thank you, Dr. King, for your inspiring leadership! Second graders have been busy writing this month! They're about to send friendly letters to family members across the country, asking them to spend some time with our class Flat Stanley. In the letters, we expressed our thanks in advance for sharing their time and a promise to get

Stanley back with a letter telling all about his adventures. We're excited to read all about what he gets up to! We also enjoyed a fun imaginary story about having a polar bear as a friend and created positive poems about what we *are not*, —putting a twist on the idea of self-expression. In addition, we summarized fables as part of our ongoing study of Folktales. As a final project, students are gearing up to write their own "fractured fairy tales," putting their creative spin on classic stories. And speaking of "tales", we've just finished reading *The Tale of Despereaux* and it's always bittersweet to wrap up a special shared story. Next, we'll be comparing the book to the movie, using the Venn Diagram skills we've been practicing this month. In math, we've wrapped up our unit on money and telling time, and the students did a fantastic job. Now, we're diving into different strategies for



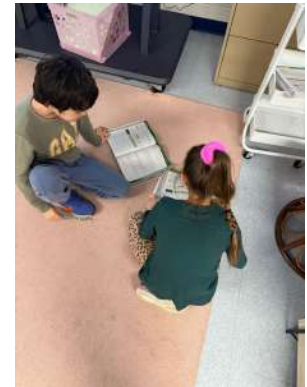
adding and subtracting, using tools like number lines and hundreds charts to build our skills. In social studies, we're learning about the US regions and their climates, while in science, we're exploring how water shapes the Earth's surface. Students have been constructing mountain models to show how water flows downhill and breaks down rocks into sand, which eventually ends up on the beach. They also built and used model hills to investigate erosion and brainstormed solutions to help reduce its impact. Can you believe the 100th school day is just around the corner? We're excited to celebrate this fun milestone together!



Third Grade

January may have felt like a very long month, but it was a month full of productive learning and new routines for the third grade class! In ELA, we continue to work on building our knowledge of reading by learning about several different types of genres. So far this month, we have read several stories that related to our unit question of how the environment affects us, and why we should appreciate it. Our favorite unit story was a myth about how the ocean came to the Earth in a magical pumpkin! We are working on writing our own personal narratives and are learning about the writing process.

In Math, we learned all about the different properties of math, such as distributive, associative, commutative, and identitive. We can successfully use our knowledge of these properties to help us solve complex word problems. We continue to practice our multiplication facts and we get better every day! In Social Studies, we have begun our unit on Geography and are discussing how different places in the world affect how different people live. We have also been lucky enough to join the 5th grade class for Social Studies and Science discussions about different locations in the world, and the moon! I am so proud of all the students and how hard they continue to work towards all of their third-grade goals. We are looking forward to celebrating the 100th day of school in February, and all of our accomplishments.



Fourth Grade

We have covered a LOT of material this month! Our Martin Luther King Jr. study was inspiring and moving. After reading the *Who Was Martin Luther King Jr.* biography, the class listened to his "I Have a Dream Speech." We discussed the importance of using impactful words, as well as how words can affect change, inspire, and teach others. Each student developed their own quotes to share with the world here at LBS with the writing prompt to "develop a quote or statement which can inspire others to affect



change in our family, school community, and/or the world."

They created a bulletin board of inspirational quotes and reviewed the correct usage of quotation marks and punctuation during the process.

The class has moved into Module 6- all things division. They reviewed the vocabulary: dividend, divisor, and quotient. And they are learning to find whole number quotients with remainders with up to 4-digit dividends and 1-digit divisors. They are continuing to improve their problem-solving skills using the four operations. They explain their calculations by using area models, arrays, and

equations.

The class did some research on Florence and Richard Atwater, the author couple who wrote our new novel study book, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. This novel study incorporates rich vocabulary, geography, and themes of family bonds, adventure, survival, and perseverance. We have also begun our class read-aloud, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo. The class was eager to point out that the author has written some of their favorite books, *Because of Winn Dixie*, and *The Tale of Despereaux*.

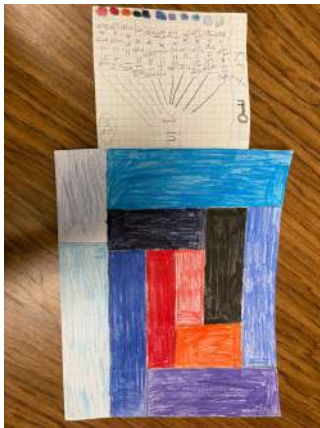
The class has performed many experiments in our science unit. They are familiar with how the eye works, how the brain sends and receives messages, what an optical illusion is, and 'reaction time.' They are able to answer the question "How can some animals see in the dark?" The Human Machine proved to be a favorite unit of study for this class.

US Landscapes is a detailed and comprehensive unit. We are completing our study of the 5 regions of the United States. We can name the 5 Great Lakes using the H.O.M.E.S. acronym. And we have a greater understanding of newer geographical terms such as elevation, tributary, landform, and watershed. Some other highlights of the month were our "Compliments Snowball Fight" and the mini marshmallow and toothpick timed structure challenge! Ask your students about these experiences. We are exploring so much each day in fourth grade. I hope your students are sharing their special highlights with you at home.



Fifth Grade

It's hard to believe that we're already a full month into the New Year. The Earth has already made it 1/12th of the way around the Sun, as students learned from our Spaceship Earth science unit. We've explored the planetary rhythms that cause day and night, that cause the constellations to shift seamlessly with the seasons, and the Moon to wax and wane (or at least appear to!) as we move from one month into the next. Next, we'll take a look at the nature of other planets in our solar system, and look even

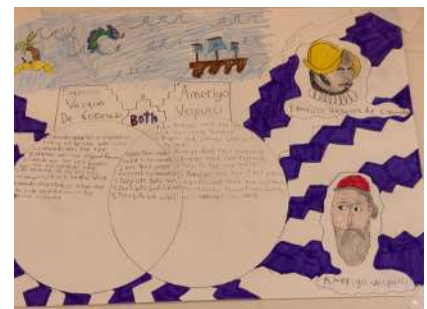


further beyond to the fiery suns that burn in their trillions across the galaxies.

Back here on the ground, we are working on fractions and mixed numbers. After multiplying, adding, and subtracting, students are preparing to do what seems nonsensical at first... dividing fractions and even dividing *by* fractions. (In one project, students created an artistic design made out of rectangles with fractional dimensions, and calculated the area of each one.)

With each new topic, students make models to show *how* the numbers and the operations work together, then use that to develop "tricks of the trade" that

can be used to arrive at a final answer more rapidly. From there, we'll forge ahead into dealing with the fraction's second cousin – decimals! In Reading, we have been moving through the Observations unit in our MyView book. The class was thrilled to encounter a chapter of an old favorite: *Hatchet*, which they read in full last year. Each student marked the text to highlight ways that the author utilized point of view to see into the main character's (or really, the *only* character's!) thoughts, dreams, and feelings, and wrote a



five-paragraph essay laying out how that helps us understand the story. We hope that everyone has had a wonderful start to 2025!



Sixth Grade

Happy February! Where did January go?? In January Sixth Grade 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*.

We have begun algebra! Well, pre-algebra, anyway. 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 this 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 coming in the not-too-distant future. We will then move on to Ancient Rome and the Roman Empire.

Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org