



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

January 2022

Mr. Arcurio's Corner

Happy New Year! We have entered 2022 and it is going to be another great year of learning and growing in the LBS community. During this time we often reflect upon the successes and struggles of the previous year and resolve to make changes in the year ahead. I would like to encourage everyone to take a different view of this process for 2022. It is certainly worthwhile to review the previous year; however, I would simply ask that we encourage our children to form habits that will lead to success. If each child identifies and actualizes three habits that can increase success in any meaningful areas of their lives they will be on a solid road to personal growth. Sometimes we look for perfection at this time of year when we should be encouraging and celebrating progress.

Health/Covid Update

I wanted to give you an update on health data and our school's response. Thus far, we have received 3 notifications of individuals testing positive over the break with no school-related close contacts outside of households. At this time, our district, like other schools in our county, will be open for a **traditional full-day of school on Monday, January 3rd.**

The Hunterdon Department of Health and county superintendents have maintained communication throughout the winter recess. Our Central West region remains at the orange/high-risk level. However, other regions around us have moved into the red/very high-risk level. Some schools in these very high-risk counties are offering a change to their school schedule to begin the New Year. I will continue to respond to the changing health data and information from the Department of Health.

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>

If your child tested positive for COVID-19 over winter break, please inform Mrs. K at lkosciolek@lebanonschool.org I am aware that the CDC has revised the isolation and quarantine timeframes for the general public, however, schools have been advised to wait for the updated school setting guidance document from the NJ Department of Health before implementing any changes. I will let you know when/if changes in regards to quarantine go into effect for schools. *For now, the timeframe is still 10 days of isolation if your child tests positive, and 10-day quarantine for unvaccinated close contacts, or 7 days with a negative test.*

Please keep your child home if they are experiencing any COVID-like symptoms. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and patience as we continue to deal with changing health data.

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio
Lead Learner/Superintendent

Important Dates	
Jan 3	School reopens (full Day 8:40am-3:00pm)
Jan 6	BOE Mtg (6:30PM)
Jan 10	PTA Mtg (6:30PM)
Jan 17	School Closed (MLK Day observance)

Office Items

Emergency Closing/Delay Information



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

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

Also note that when LBS has:

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

Health Office...

- *Bully-Free Zone*: We finished the month of December with the character trait of CARING. For the months of January and February our character trait will be FAIRNESS. The students will focus on treating individuals equally regardless of their ideas, opinions or moral standards.
- *Nurse's News*: I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our LBS families a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. Enjoy your winter break! See you all in 2022.



Safety Patroller of the Month

Congratulations to Ava Baldinger for being Safety Patroller of December 2021. Ava has shown such kindness while on her post as Safety Patroller. She greets everyone by name and always says “have a great day” to all. She is always willing to go the extra mile to help out and make others feel good. Great job and keep up the good work! Congratulations

Art

Congratulations to the Art Prize Raffle Winners Adrienne, Desiree, and Tyler! In case you didn't hear, students who demonstrated kindness and responsibility

in art class earned a ticket in the Art Prize Raffle. All those who did not win, will get to keep their tickets in the pool for the next raffle pulling. Keep it up! Everyone has been showing their ability to be flexible amid challenges and quick changes, and I'm so grateful for students' eagerness to still show up and want to create. If by any chance your child has to go virtual, they have been invited via email to join an Art Google Classroom that has lessons shared for them to complete during their scheduled art time.





These lessons are only for students who are quarantining and there is no need for anyone else attending school to complete them. It's good to be prepared just in case.

The art factory is still in full swing, and you can take a look at finished works on [Artsonia](#)! Kindergarten and 1st Grade just started sweet family portraits and are really focusing on drawing proportionate figures. Second and Third Graders finished their Jumping in the Leaves Portraits. They both will now start making Grateful Bowls. This is a season when we can reflect on what we have and embrace gratitude. These bowls will be full of breakfast, dinner, or dessert; how lucky we are! The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Graders are working on drawing using



contour lines. After a vote, they decided the subject matter should be their backpacks. So far, so so good! Enjoy your break!

Enrichment, A.T., BSI

Enrichment Classes: have enjoyed many STEM challenges this month, practicing the steps of creating a plan first, preparing for things that could go wrong and assessing ways to improve afterwards. We worked with limited materials and specific criteria designing both within teams and independently. We wrapped up with Polar Express challenges this last week and students created Jingle Bell Mazes, Elf parachutes and Steam Engines ! In January we will continue learning how to find things in the library using the search option on library computer and further our coding skills!

A/T: Students in A/T have been exploring their interests, strengths and passions through inventories and research as we work towards finalizing a Genius Hour project to begin in January!

Music



We are so excited to be able to share our virtual winter concert this month. If you missed the performance link, here it is <https://youtu.be/NqMNIH7stPw>. I'm so proud of all of the students for their wonderful performances! The students worked so hard learning their songs over the last couple of months. Through our concert repertoire, the students learned about vocal technique, articulation, tone, form, dynamics, harmony, rhythm, and more. In addition to our concert preparations, we studied Piotr Tchaikovsky as our composer of the month, we learned about his life and the

impact his compositions had on the music world and culture. We worked on various rhythm playalongs to accompany music from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. The upper grades had so much fun working on our cup percussion that we decided to record it and include it in our winter concert. While working on our cup percussion, the upper grades learned about form and labeled the sections of *The Nutcracker March* to identify the repeated sections. Then, we learned the accompanying percussion parts for each section to finally put together our performance in ABACABA form! Next month, we will be learning about the families of instruments in the lower grades and more advanced rhythm reading and compositions in the upper grades.

The band members really came together this month and made huge improvements. Our beginner players have gotten so comfortable with their instruments are now working on evaluating their playing in order to diagnose their problems and fix them during home practice. The experienced players have been wonderful in leading their sections, serving as their role models. The students are consistently working to expand their range, increase fluency, and improve tone. We are so excited to begin our new spring concert repertoire next month and the challenges that each new song will bring.

Physical Education/Health



This December we will continue working on catching techniques and overhand throwing in PE. Kindergarten continued with underhand throwing and Pre-School got in on some of the action. We practiced catching and throwing to each other in a variety of ways. It was a lot of fun to watch them test their abilities and strategize with their classmates during gameplay. During health, we learned about illnesses and diseases, their effects, and what we can do to manage and keep from getting these medical



problems. We are all very excited for the upcoming holidays and showing how much we care for those we love and others as well. Health in January will focus on the effects that Tobacco\Vaping and Alcohol have on our health. In PE we will practice hand striking games like volleyball and other games and activities that develop hand-eye coordination.

Spanish



¡Feliz Diciembre! K-2 students have just learned some words about Invierno (winter), and where a snowflake might fall—on our cabeza, nariz, or mano. (head, nose, or hand) We learned that in Spanish, they say “Flake of Snow” instead of snowflake. We have really come a long way in recognizing not only colors but numbers and school vocabulary in Spanish. We have made charts displaying all the classroom vocabulary we know!



Grades 3-4 have been learning classroom vocabulary words and practicing fruit and vegetable words. Grades 5-6 have been watching the next installment of the Billy saga, Billy y Las Botas (Billy and the Boots), and applying what they know about question words to answer comprehension questions about the video. They have been learning grammar and vocabulary in context, and are ready to move on to reading some beginner texts!



Preschool



AM: This month the preschoolers have been busy learning more letters, shapes, numbers, all about buildings, holidays, and gingerbread. We have been very excited about the upcoming holidays and the preparations for them. We finished our buildings unit learning about the foundation of a building and how to make a building strong. We looked at the story of the three little pigs and which houses were strong and what made them strong. We made and decorated gingerbread shapes. We learned letters I and J. We enjoyed a polar express day too!!!! In January we will learn about clothes and continue to learn more letters.



PM: This month in the afternoons we have learned about hibernation, gingerbread and holidays. We learned what animals hibernate, what it means to hibernate and why they hibernate. We went on a bear hunt and made a bear hunt map to follow with the story. We made gingerbread people and decorated them, we learned the letters I and J. We enjoyed a polar express day

and are ready for the winter break. In January we will learn about winter, snowmen, winter animals and healthy eating.

Kindergarten

This month in kindergarten the class learned about winter holidays and how they are celebrated. We discussed the traditions that take place during the holidays of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Diwali. They also learned how Christmas is celebrated in other countries. For example, in Sweden, they celebrate St. Lucia Day on December 12, before Christmas. We also discussed how New Years is celebrated. We read a variety of holiday stories and made many projects. We also made winter projects and wrote about them using phonetic spelling.



We enjoyed our Polar Express week. As a school, we all worked to put together a week of science, technology, engineering, and math projects to get the students thinking and problem-solving. The students enjoyed creating the jingle bell maze and designing a Polar Express train using a specific list of materials. They were resourceful and creative in their designs.



In reading, we have been learning about how living things get what they need. We read informational texts about migration and hibernation. They also read about how bees make honey. 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 and we are working each week on multiple phonics sounds to help us blend and read more words. We are also learning to recognize adjectives.

Next month, the class will be learning to include adjectives in their writing. They chose a topic for their next mini-book. They will continue working on their books in January. We will also be reading and writing about snowmen and working to describe their snowmen using adjectives.



This month in science, we have been learning about the seasons. We learned how animals survive in cold winter weather. We will continue to learn about polar animals and their adaptations and behaviors for survival. In math, we completed our module focusing on representing addition and subtraction within 5 using objects and drawings. We are currently working on representing numbers 6 to 10 with objects. In our next module, we will be working on representing numbers 6 to 10 with a written numeral.

First Grade

First grade has certainly been busy during the holiday season! During our Holidays Around the World unit, the students enjoyed “visiting” The Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, England, Germany, and Pakistan! We learned about the customs and holiday traditions that are important to many of the students in our class. As a fun STEM activity, the students made a plan and constructed the tallest tree possible using gumdrops and toothpicks. In January, we will learn about animals and their adaptations to survive.

When we return to school, we will begin working on writing persuasive letters; the students will be writing letters to zookeepers which state their opinion about which animal to



add to their zoo. We will also resume our spelling and word study, and continue to work on the strategies good readers use to read and comprehend text.

In math, we've been exploring the relationship between addition and subtraction. In the next module, the students will learn how to represent equations with unknown numbers using objects, drawings, and learn how to solve "Add to" and "Take from" problems. Happy holidays and we will see you in 2022!

Second Grade

It's the most wonderful time of the year! December has been a whirlwind of fun in second grade! In Reading and Writing, we read two new stories that were realistic fiction. We have started to challenge ourselves with our reading levels, and are becoming better readers every day! In Math, we learned all about money and the value of different coins and bills! We are getting ready to start working for our "desk pets" in January to help us learn the value of money, and how we can spend and save money. In Social Studies, we traveled around the world and learned about how different countries celebrate the holidays in December. We also had the opportunity to complete lots of fun STEM projects, like constructing a Christmas tree out of gumdrops, building a snowman from marshmallows, and creating a maze for a jingle bell! We celebrated Grinchmas as a class, and completed lots of fun "grinchy" activities, like using our adjectives to describe the Grinch! I am so excited to see where January takes us as a class. Have a wonderful holiday break and a happy new year!



Third Grade

The year is coming to a quick close, but we were able to sneak in some fun learning activities during this very festive month. We learned how to do the "Winter Pokey" as part of our December Poems, and participated in the *almost-annual* snow-person craft; we welcomed a fox and a snow bunny this year - so creative! In math, we are flying with division concepts and all things related to... related facts and will begin two-step word problems in the New Year. In science, we continued our weather and climate unit and learned all about different clouds and the weather they bring. In social studies, we learned the continents of the world and their location, as well as information related to the four hemispheres. In January we will focus on using latitude and longitude to find exact locations on the Earth. We are also excited to have participated in a few STEM challenges this month that allowed us to think in new and different ways to solve problems. We look forward to our holiday break and a healthy New Year in 2022.



Fourth Grade

This month we wrapped up our unit on Antarctica after reading Mr. Popper's Penguins and comparing the movie to the book. The consensus was that the book is better than the movie! We were also lucky enough to have guest speakers, Adam Tury (Mrs. Heller's Friend and "Mindful Minute Adam") and his wife Veronica. They recently returned from Antarctica. Adam



and Veronica shared some of the sights and animals that they saw on their adventure plus asked many questions about the journey to get there. The children were most impressed to see pictures of them doing the Polar Plunge in Antarctica, the water was 28 degrees! We were all amazed by the photographs of the animals they saw: killer whales, various penguins, fur seals, and elephant



seals. We could have talked to Adam about Antarctica. Adam was also impressed by our knowledge of Antarctica and how we were able to identify many animals.

This week we also created jingle bell mazes as a STEM activity to accompany our Polar Express activities. All the children were given 3 pieces of card stock, 10 flexible straws, tape, and 1 jingle bell. It was awesome to see everyone's

unique and creative ideas!



During the month of December, we have been participating in a Kindness Challenge in our classroom. If we see someone being kind an anonymous kindness card was added to our classroom door. As you can see below, we have been busy speeding kindness! We will continue the challenge into the new year!

In math, we have practiced long division and interpreting division with remainders in word problems. Next module we will continue practicing dividing by 1 and 2 digit



numbers.

Next month we will learn about the early people of New Jersey and how they used the natural resources in Social Studies and animal adaptations in Reading.

Fifth Grade

From holiday concerts to a week filled with Polar Express-themed STEM activities, it's been a busy end to 2021!

There's a joke that five out of every four people has a hard time with fractions, but five out of every five fifth graders are doing fantastically! The students used fraction strips (both physical and digital) to see how fractions related to one another and are applying that understanding to all sorts of real-world problems. The class has excelled at finding common denominators, changing mixed numbers back into fractions, and naming fractions that are equivalent to one another. Moving forward, we'll work to understand how fractions can be multiplied.

In reading, we've continued working with different genres. We've read portions of the realistic survival tale *Hatchet* and *A Place for Frogs*, an encouraging problem/solution piece on the many ways humans are working to help save frogs from environmental challenges. We've also been writing informational texts of our own. Students have begun a piece on a topic they know well. When we return in January, they will begin researching a new subject to write about. After enjoying the humorous mystery *Bunnicula*, we will also move into our second novel study.

Our pivot back to science instruction brings us to the 'Spaceship Earth!' unit in the MysteryScience

program. Using our background knowledge and some sharp reasoning, we have answered the questions: "How fast does the Earth spin?" and "Who set the first clock?" Students made shadow clocks, spun around to model day, night, dusk, and dawn, and learned how to figure out the season just by looking at a photograph.



On the day of the winter solstice, we learned that the Sun travels in its lowest path across the sky. The class stepped outside at "solar noon" (the time the Sun reaches its highest point, 11:57 that day in Lebanon) to take note of where the Sun was. We'll keep track

every few weeks to see how the Sun's highest point changes over time. It may not get warmer anytime soon, but hopefully, we can at least look forward to more sunlight!

One of the very few benefits of its getting dark out so early is a greater opportunity to gaze into the night sky! As we begin to study the moon, the planets, and the universe beyond our solar system, I hope everyone gets a chance to explore and apply what they've learned about outer space!

Sixth Grade



December is always a short, but busy, month. In spite of all the extras, the 6th graders still managed to complete a literature study on *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, as well as most of another math chapter (to be continued next month!). We have also nearly completed our life sciences unit, on food webs and our history unit on Ancient Greece. In the new year, we will discuss energy transfer through organisms in science, begin to learn about the Roman Empire, and preview a new literature study designed to coincide with Black History Month! It looks like January will be another busy month in 6th grade! As part of our Polar Express week, 6th grade participated in various STEM activities, including a cup stacking contest, an igloo building challenge, and an experiment with heat and insulation. We enjoyed watching *The Polar Express* while drinking hot chocolate and wearing our pajamas.

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.

