



# THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

January 2024

## Dr. Arcurio's Corner

Happy New Year! We have stepped into the exciting year of 2024, filled with endless possibilities and incredible opportunities for growth and learning within the vibrant Lebanon Borough community. As we embark on this new chapter, it is customary to reflect upon the triumphs and challenges of the past year and set intentions for the year ahead. However, in the spirit of embracing a fresh perspective, let us encourage our children to cultivate habits that will pave the way for success in all aspects of their lives.

While it is undoubtedly valuable to review the events of the previous year, let us shift our focus towards instilling in our children the power of forming habits that lead to personal growth. By identifying and actively embracing three habits that can enhance their achievements, our children will embark upon a journey of self-discovery and empowerment. As we embark on this journey, it is essential to remember that progress, not perfection, should be our guiding principle. Rather than striving for flawlessness, let us celebrate the little steps forward and the lessons learned along the way.

As parents, we are constantly seeking information and guidance to navigate the complex and rewarding task of raising children. In line with our emphasis on progress, I invite everyone to explore the wealth of resources available on [Cybraryman.com](http://Cybraryman.com)'s website, specifically those focusing on the invaluable concept of [Learning From Mistakes](#). Within these pages, you will discover a host of articles, videos, and inspiring TEDtalks that offer invaluable insights and strategies for supporting our children in developing resilience in the face of adversity. Together, let us equip our children with the tools they need to embrace challenges and emerge stronger and more resilient than ever before.

With unwavering determination and a collective commitment to growth, let us make this year an extraordinary one. As we embark on this shared journey, may each step forward be a testament to our community's unwavering spirit and our children's remarkable potential. Here's to a year filled with limitless possibilities and countless achievements. Happy New Year!



Better Together,  
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Important Dates	
Jan 2	School Reopens - full day
Jan 8	PTA Mtg (6:30pm)
Jan 10	BOE Reorg Mtg. (6:30pm)
Jan 12	PTA Hot Chocolate Social
Jan 15	School Closed - MLK Day Observance
Jan 17	Walking School Bus

## 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:** During the month of December, our character trait was Caring. Our focus as a school community was of kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness and helping people in need. The students were able to demonstrate these traits by taking part in the LBS Holiday Food Drive benefiting the Flemington Food Pantry. On Dec. 12th the students enjoyed their Wingman Activity Day. 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.

**Nurses' News:** During the winter season let's stop the spread of germs and illness. We all can stay healthy by following these tips:

- Frequent handwashing
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue. Wash your hands after use.
- Wipe down surfaces often
- Stay up to date on vaccines
- Stay home when you are sick

Common Symptoms*	Cold	Flu	COVID-19
Fever and/or chills		✓	✓
Headache		✓	✓
Muscle pain or body aches		✓	✓
Feeling tired or weak		✓	✓
Sore throat	✓	✓	✓
Runny or stuffy nose	✓	✓	✓
Sneezing	✓		
Cough	✓	✓	✓
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing		✓	✓
Vomiting and diarrhea		✓	✓
Change in or loss of taste or smell			✓

Learn more at [www.nia.nih.gov/flu](http://www.nia.nih.gov/flu)

**NIH** National Institute on Aging

\*Symptoms may vary based on new COVID-19 variants and vaccination status.

### Safety Patrol

Congratulations, Emma Calvo, you have been recognized as the Safety Patroller for December. Over the past month, you have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities. You consistently behave with respect and politeness both when on patrol and off. You becoming a part of the safety patrol squad makes me very proud. Congratulations, and please don't stop doing amazing work!



### Enrichment/Media/Technology

TREP\$ was a **HUGE** success! I am so proud of the students who participated. I hope everyone enjoyed the event and look forward to new entrepreneurs joining us next year! It was great to see the support of so many Lebanon Borough Community members stop by as well to support TREP\$. Thank you to everyone who supported TREP\$!

The K-6 students all participated in December's hour of code! Students all have logins to Kodable.com. This is a great website for learning and using all things code. The older students also use code.org. Ask them about sequences, conditions, loops, and even functions!

Fifth and sixth grades created stop motion winter scenes and corresponding stories to go with their scenes. Some students shared their stop motion stories with younger students.

Lastly, PreK-4th grade read and compared various Gingerbread Man stories and fracture tales, there are many different versions. We then asked ourselves how we can help the gingerbread man

across the river so he doesn't need "help" from the fox. We created a paper gingerbread house neighborhood!



### Music

I am so proud of all of the student at LBS! They did an amazing job at the concert! Believe it or not, when we get back, preparations for the spring will begin. The band will receive new music. The students will find out what their musical is this year! Very exciting! Have a happy and safe holiday!



### Physical Education/Health

2023 is about to come to an end, wow! It has been a quick 4 months of the school year! In PE this month we practiced jump rope and other timing activities that required jumping and hopping with two feet at once. We participated in games and activities that were holiday and winter themed and we also broke out the floor scooters, which is always fun. Below are a couple of examples of the fun we



had to build on timing and execution of jumping or hopping with two feet. In January we will practice hand striking games and activities to strengthen our hand eye coordination. The health unit will focus on self-worth, mental and emotional health and our Fairness character trait.



### Spanish

December was an amazing month in Spanish class. We enjoyed learning and expanding our knowledge about la Navidad and Las Posadas. We learned that in Mexico, people celebrate Las Posadas and re-enact the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. We learned about cultural traditions that go along with Christmas in Mexico, including the legends that contributed to

considering the poinsettia the Christmas flower, and how Mexican celebrations last from the middle of December all the way to the beginning of February! We learned about special food and celebrations that people of Mexico celebrate, and enjoyed seeing cultural videos of the beautiful traditions.



### Preschool

AM: In December Preschool finished our unit on trees, learned about hibernation, holidays that happen this time of year and gingerbread. We had 2 pajama days, made gingerbread men and decorated them, we continued to learn letters, numbers, shapes and worked on sorting and patterning. We have been enjoying show and tell days, and got to perform in the school concert! In January we will learn about winter, snowmen and start our clothing unit! We will also get to make fake snow and hope for some real snow!



PM: In December we learned about dinosaurs, hibernation, gingerbread and all different holidays that

happen this time of year. We put a small egg in water and watched/recorded it hatching over the week, we participated in the winter concert, made and decorated gingerbread shapes and had 2 pajama days! We continued to write in our journals, learn letters, numbers and patterns. In January we will talk about a lot of winter things; winter, snowmen, and winter animals.



## 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 13th, before Christmas. We also discussed how New Years is celebrated. We read a variety of holiday stories and made many projects.

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. We will also be reading and writing about snowmen and working to describe their snowmen using adjectives. In science, we have been learning about what plants need to survive. We learned about the different climates where plants grow best. Next month in science, we will be learning about the seasons. We will learn how animals survive in the cold winter weather. We will 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. In our next module we will be working on representing numbers 6 to 10 with objects and with a written numeral.



## First Grade

The First Grade **rocked** The 12 Days of Christmas at the Winter Concert! Speaking of Christmas, we've been very busy during the holiday season! We just wrapped up our Holidays Around the World Unit. We've learned about Hanukkah, Diwali, and Kwanzaa. The students also shared the holiday traditions that are important to their families. In January, we will move on to our Maps & Globes unit. In Science, we will begin our Animal Superpowers unit, where the students will explore how the external characteristics of animals are essential to their survival.

In math, we've been learning how to represent addition word problems with objects and drawings. They've also learned how to use a bar model to add and subtract. In January, we

will learn how to solve "Put together and Take Apart problems" using visual models, pictures, and drawings. Lastly, we continue to memorize our addition and subtraction facts.

In reading, we've read some interesting informational texts about sunflowers, frogs, and animal life cycles. In January, we will study folktales, fables, and poetry. As always, the students will continue to memorize their high-frequency words and learn new spelling patterns!

The families in 1st grade also threw a “Baby Gracie” surprise party for me as part of our Winter Holiday celebration. The “diaper cake”, games & relay races, and thoughtful gifts were so sweet! Thank you so much! I am going to miss my students and families dearly; they are a very special group. I know that they are going to do great things in 2024! We are also sad to see our dear friend Sloane move. The students are going to miss her. We wish her and her brother Dominic all the best in their new school! Check out pictures from the Winter Concert, the surprise “Baby Gracie”/ Winter Holiday Party, and Sloane. I will miss seeing all of the wonderful students and families of LBS while on maternity leave! I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday!



### Second Grade

December has come and gone in the blink of an eye, and what a month it has been! We have done so much learning in second grade, and the class has come so far since September- I am so proud of their progress!

In reading and writing, we finished our second large unit where we learned all about informational texts, poems, and fiction stories. We completed a research project on tree bark, and learned how to write a complete paragraph using complete sentences, correct punctuation, and transitional words! We spent a lot of time learning how to use all the resources available to us so that we could write a well informed paragraph to share our knowledge with each other.

In math, we have become great at understanding place value and using it to help us solve word problems with addition and subtraction. In January, we will begin counting by fives, tens, and hundreds and learn how to apply that information to help us solve multi-step word problems.

In social studies, we also learned about Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa and what those holidays mean to different people, and what their culture is like as well. This ties in with our Communities and Resources unit which we will continue to learn about when we return to school, as well as start our animal kingdoms unit. We also got to experience many fun things outside of academics, like our winter concert, working with the 5th graders on a space science experiment, and building traps with a partner to try and catch a snowman! January will be a packed

month, but the past few weeks have prepared us for everything we have yet to learn in second grade. Have a wonderful break and a happy holiday! See you in 2024!



### Third Grade

The Crew was able to sneak in some fun and festive activities during this very special month. We learned how to do the “Winter Pokey ” as part of our December Poems, and participated in the winter-person craft - *can gnomes be considered people?* In math we’ve been flying through division concepts since we are such great multipliers! Soon we’ll be estimating sums and differences, and learning to expand numbers to add and subtract





quickly and accurately. In the New Year we will learn perimeter, begin graphing, and much more! In science we worked with understanding heredity within plants and how selection works for creating variety in our food. We also finished our second reading unit. We learned how to take notes and paraphrase for a research project investigating animal and plant relationships showing interdependence. We are excited to dig deeply into unit three which explores the genre of historical fiction. We'll be analyzing story elements, such as characters and plot. In writing we concluded a "How To" essay with easy to follow steps and description. We also identified and used prepositions to form winter poems with beautiful descriptive prepositional phrases. We also had some fun writing a reindeer story! In social studies we are learning about

Native Americans and their unique lives and culture. Lastly, we gathered with 6th graders to complete a holiday craft-- thank you!! We look forward to our holiday break and a healthy New Year in 2024.

### **Fourth Grade**

December was a whirlwind of creativity, wonderful math wizardry, writing workshops, musical moments and more!

The class enjoyed a terrific Wingman workshop with their upper grade schoolmates. They learned to communicate and develop strategies, and work together as a team to win group games. It's always fun to have students from the other classes in our room working together towards our shared goals.



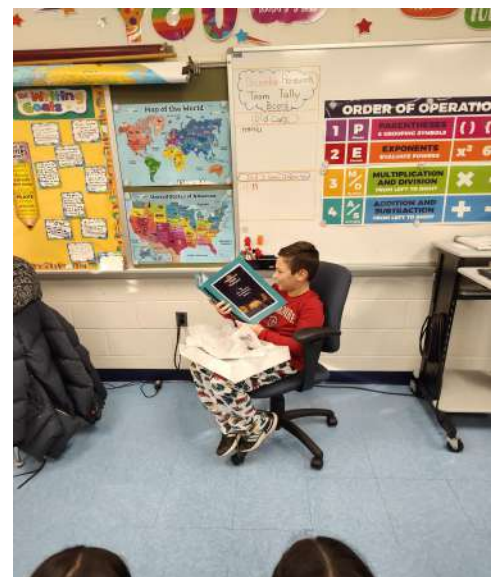
The fourth grade is studying traditions. We discussed traditions for holidays, family traditions, cultural traditions and the similarities and differences of various traditions. We created holiday stockings with short creative traditions essays. Our current Social Studies unit- "How Americans Live" highlights American traditions, patriotism, the economy, landmarks, and symbolism.

Our Math class is rocketing towards mastering their fast facts for division! We have also done a great job practicing the Order of Operations using the PEMDAS acronym, and the students now know to "Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally" while completing their

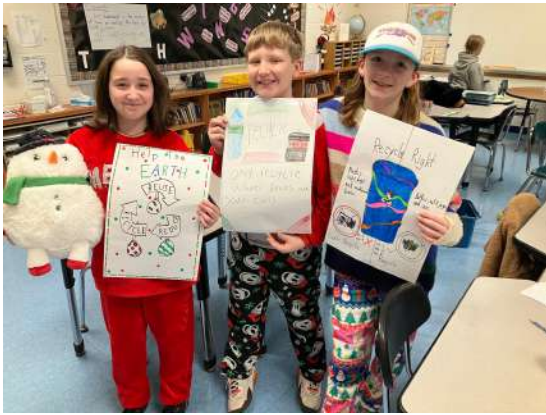
lengthy equations.

In ELA we finished our "Frindle" novel study and moved on to complete "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!" just in time for the season. We were able to compare and contrast it with the movie version of the novel during our Holiday Party.

Our writers continually amaze us with their story crafting, their use of juicy details, dialogue, and figurative language. We completed two big writing pieces this month. The first, a personalized poem based on the collection of poems of young children put together by Wendy Ewald, called "The Best Part of Me." The students chose what they felt is their best feature, and developed beautiful poems which we turned into stunning holiday gifts for their families. Their second writing piece was inspired by a character named Arnold Wigglesmith, created by Dominic Tawil early in our school year. This project was a bittersweet assignment, as it also served as a going away book for Dom, as his family is moving to Florida. "The Adventures of Arnold Wigglesmith" was authored and illustrated by the whole class and presented to Dom at our holiday/going away party. We will miss



Dominic and the Tawil Family so very much and wish them a lovely start to a new chapter of their lives in the Sunshine State.



### **Fifth Grade**

From the TREP\$ Marketplace to the Winter Concert, December has been a fast-moving, jam-packed month for fifth grade here at LBS.

There's an old joke that 5 out of every 4 people have a hard time with fractions, but 5 out of 5 fifth graders are doing fantastically! By using virtual fraction strips, students got to see how different fractions fit together and relate to one another. As we moved on to adding and subtracting more complex fractions and mixed numbers, this groundwork helped students not just to

find the correct answer but to visualize what their answers represent. Moving forward, we'll begin to tackle the multiplication and division of fractions.

In ELA, we've continued reading across different genres. In *A Place for Frogs* and *Far From Shore*, we've encountered encouraging nonfiction pieces on the many ways humans are working to help save frogs and sealife from environmental challenges. More recently, we completed our third novel study of the year, *The Whipping Boy*. A cross between medieval adventure and a cover-to-cover comedy of errors, the students reveled in the story of two unlikely friends, cloaked in amusingly dense language and larger than life characters. The class especially enjoyed watching the film version, spotting differences between the two, and considering why the changes were made to make the story work across both forms of media. As Jemmy would say, *Gaw!*



In social studies, we wrapped up our overview of the regions of North America, and the climate, landforms, and natural wonders to be found in each. We pivoted back to science instruction with the 'Spaceship Earth!' unit. Using our background knowledge and some sharp reasoning, we have tackled questions like: "How fast does the Earth spin?" (with some help from our friends in Kindergarten) and "Who set the first clock?"

The second grade class joined us to create a models of our solar system to get a sense for just how far away the outer planets are from the Sun.

Flashlights stood in for the Sun as groups tested to see how far solar energy could reach and supply power remote-controlled rovers that could one day be launched to explore the alien surfaces of faraway planets. (See Grade 2's monthly update for some picture of the two classes in action!)

This outer space unit is offering us many hands-on activities to try, and the dark skies throughout the





season give everyone a chance to go out and view the planets, constellations, and celestial events we are learning about in class. Everyone is encouraged to brave the cold and spend some time exploring the clear Winter skies. Wave hello to Orion for us!  
Grade five wishes everyone at LBS a very Happy New Year.

### **Sixth Grade**

December is always a short, but busy, month. In spite of this, the 6th graders still managed to complete a literature study on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, two math modules, as well as our “Biodiversity And Interaction of Organisms” unit in science (including a fun experiment on global warming), and a history unit on Ancient Mesoamerica. In addition, we spent a fun afternoon with Mrs. Corradi’s class creating winter wreaths, as well as some extra music practice with Mr. Gonzales. Phew!  
In the new year, we will begin to learn about Ancient Greece and the Greek Empire in history, and preview a new literature study designed to coincide with Black History Month! We will also begin our Biome Research Reports in science. It looks like January will be another busy month in 6th grade!



### **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](#)

Visit our district website

[www.lebanonschool.org](http://www.lebanonschool.org)