



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

January, 2025

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

As we step into the promising year of 2025, we are excited about the endless possibilities and opportunities for growth and learning within our Lebanon Borough community. This is a perfect time for reflection on the achievements and challenges of the past year, while also setting our intentions for the year ahead. Let us inspire our children to cultivate habits that will support their success in all areas of life.

While reflecting on last year is valuable, let's focus on encouraging our children to develop habits that can foster personal growth. By identifying and embracing three key habits, our children can embark on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment.

Remember, our guiding principle should be progress, not perfection. Instead of aiming for flawlessness, let's celebrate every small step forward and the lessons learned along the way.

As parents, we continually seek guidance to navigate the journey of raising children. In this spirit of progress, I encourage everyone to explore the resources available on [Cybraryman.com](https://www.cybraryman.com), particularly those focused on the powerful concepts of [Growth Mindset](#) and [Learning From Mistakes](#). Here, you'll find a wealth of articles, videos, and inspiring TED Talks that provide valuable insights and strategies for helping our children build resilience in the face of challenges. Together, we can equip our children with the tools they need to embrace obstacles and emerge even stronger.

Also, be sure to mark the date if you are interested in the proposed changes regarding preschool and 6th grade. The responses to our recent community survey will be discussed at our Board of Education Meeting on January 7th, 2025. I encourage all interested community members to attend and share their perspectives.

Important Dates

- Jan 2: School Reopens - full day
- Jan 6: Town/PTA 12th Night Hot Chocolate Social 6pm
- Jan 7: BOE Mtg. 6:30pm
- Jan 13: PTA Mtg 6:30pm
- Jan 16: Walking School Bus
- Jan 20: School Closed MLK Jr. Observance



With a shared determination and a collective commitment to growth, let's make this year truly extraordinary. Each step we take together will reflect our community's unwavering spirit and our children's remarkable potential. Here's to a year filled with limitless possibilities and countless achievements.


Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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YMCA Before/After Care

- [Registration](#)

IS IT A COLD OR FLU?		
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

#FIGHT FLU 

Health Office...

Bully-Free Zone: During 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 supporting Food Banks in Hunterdon County. On Dec. 3rd 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.

Nurse's 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



Safety Patrol

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year! Take this time to enjoy your family and friends, creating memories that will last a lifetime. Stay safe, and we will see you in 2025.

Safety Patrol



Art

In Kindergarten, students had a fantastic time making resistant snowflakes and painting 3-D trees. Our First and Second graders created wonderful 3-D gingerbread houses and learned the art of making snowflakes. K-3rd graders have their artwork displayed in the front lobby. The Third and Fourth graders put the finishing touches on their city landscapes and crafted 3-D snowflakes, which will be showcased in our upcoming

Winter concert. Finally, the Fifth and Sixth graders completed their Gingerbread Houses Arch Windows.

Fourth graders earned their free day and were able to play with shaving cream. The first week of January, First and Second graders get to earn their free day.





Enrichment/Media/Technology

Kindness Initiatives

Throughout December, our school is focusing on the theme of kindness. Students from kindergarten to sixth grade crafted holiday cards that were delivered to a local nursing home, aiming to spread joy during the holiday season.

TREPS Success

The TREPS event was an incredible success! I am extremely proud of all the students who took part. I

hope everyone had a wonderful time, and I look forward to welcoming new young entrepreneurs next year! It was amazing to see so many members of the Lebanon Borough Community come out to support TREPS. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to TREPS!

Hour of Code Participation

All K-6 students engaged in December's Hour of Code! Each student has access to a coding platform—K-3 used Kodable.com, while 4-6 utilized code.org. Both websites offer fantastic opportunities for learning and practicing coding skills. Students had the chance to write their own code and troubleshoot any issues they encountered. Encourage them to share what they learned about sequences, conditions, loops, and functions!

Creative Projects in Grades 4-6

Students in grades four to six created animated winter scenes using Google Slides, accompanied by stories that matched their scenes. They have thoroughly enjoyed the creative process and have produced some impressive projects.



Gingerbread Man Activities for PreK-3

In PreK through third grade, students listened to various versions of the Gingerbread Man stories. Together, we discussed ways to assist the Gingerbread Man in crossing the river without needing the fox's help. As a fun project, we built a neighborhood of paper bag gingerbread houses that will adorn the stage for our winter concert!



Music

What an amazing and fun evening we had at our concert! I am looking forward to the work over the coming months as we go deeper into our music concepts and prepare for our Spring show!





Physical Education/Health

It is amazing how quickly the first four months of the school year have gone by! In PE this month we participated in games and activities that were holiday and winter-themed that were action-filled and fun for all. Below are some pics of the kids playing Snowball Express. As you can see the kids really enjoy games involving the floor scooters. In January we will practice hand striking games and activities to strengthen our hand-eye coordination. The health unit will focus on the grade-appropriate topics covered in our Great Body Shop workbooks as well

as our Fairness character trait of the month.



Spanish

¡Delightful diciembre! Grades K-1 have been talking about the days of the week and matching them with the current day. We are still working on understanding basic questions about the calendar and responding in Spanish. Grades 2-4 are continuing to practice listening skills with our Word of the Day, where they hear letters in Spanish and try to figure out what the word is. We learned a rhythmic hand motion game called Chocolate. Grades 5-6 have been working on our 100 Verbs and will start a project for connecting the verbs in a meaningful and memorable way.



Preschool

AM: In December Preschool finished our unit on trees, and learned about holidays that happen this time of year. We had a pajama day, made gingerbread men, and decorated them, we continued to learn letters, numbers, and 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, and 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 hibernation, gingerbread, and all the different

holidays that happen this time of year. We participated in the winter



concert, made and decorated gingerbread shapes, and had a pajama day! We continued to write in our journals, and 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, Eid, 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



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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. 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 have also been reading and writing about snowmen.

Next month in science, we will be learning about what plants need to survive. Then 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 have been 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

First grade was very busy in December! We finished our second reading unit in which we focused our reading skills about animals and began our next unit, focusing on folktales, which will take us into January! We continued working on beginning l blends (cl, bl, sl, etc) and added in some r blends (gr, dr, etc.) as well. We also worked hard to retain all the other rules we are learning about reading. Reading has a lot of rules, and first grade is doing a good job learning them all in one relatively short year. January will be more reading but with one big difference -- **Mrs. Walsh will be back!**

In math, we completed Mods 3 and 4, dealing with addition, subtraction and fact families. In January we will begin a new module that will extend our understanding of fact families, using addition and subtraction activities. In science we finished our unit on animal traits and in social studies we started a unit on Maps and Globes, which will continue into January. We also spend some time learning about winter holidays around the world and doing some fun activities on Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Ramadan. Ask your child about it!



Second Grade

It's been a short, but very festive month in Second Grade! Our class embraced the joy of the season with the "Winter Pokey" as part of our many December poems. We also had a great time participating in the Corradi Class annual snowperson craft! In math, we focused on mastering coins and understanding their unique values. Looking ahead to the New Year, we are excited to explore paper money and challenge ourselves to make change. In science, we delved into the life cycles of various animals, comparing and contrasting their experiences with our own life timeline. We also completed our

second Reading Unit, which concentrated on informational texts. Our writing



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activities included sharing a book report with Santa and crafting a procedural text on how we would catch Santa if given the chance! Additionally, we wrote informative pieces about migrating animals. In social studies, we expanded our knowledge of our continent, North America, and its neighboring countries. We also collected food items throughout these past six weeks. We combined these items with the 5th Grade for their donation. We eagerly anticipate our holiday break and wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year in 2025!

Third Grade

It's hard to believe that it is already December in third grade. For the past month, we have been working hard on so many things to better ourselves as strong

students.

In ELA, we've been working on figurative language and learning how to add details to our writing with things like adjectives, metaphors, similes, and idioms. We have become wonderful spellers and we are excelling on all of our spelling tests!

In Math, we have continued to practice our multiplication facts and learn shortcuts to help us become multiplication wizards on our mad minutes.

In Social Studies, we are learning all about different communities and the towns that we live in. We have learned about different cultures and traditions, and how they play a big role in our lives. We are working on writing postcards to a family member all about Lebanon Borough to stamp and send to them!



In Science, we learned about the life cycle of different bugs, animals, and plants. We learned about pollination and how the environment plays a role in all of the life cycles. We also had the chance to complete lots of fun holiday activities, like sewing gingerbread men, making ornaments, and creating gingerbread men traps! We are so sad to see Ms. Hamrah leave us at the end of this month! She has been so wonderful and we are all going to miss her very much, but can't wait for her to come back and visit! Mrs. Barkel is so excited to be back in the classroom and continue all of the hard work the students have completed so far. Have a wonderful holiday break and a Happy New Year! We will see you in 2025!



Fourth Grade

It's hard to believe we are wrapping up 2024 in fourth grade. We are proudly improving our double-digit multiplication processes using partial products, area models, and mental math strategies.

In science, we created a paper and string model finger to illustrate how tendons, muscles, and bones work together. The Human Body unit asks us "What can blind people see?" In an effort to illustrate how the human eye functions, we created a lens model to show how light enters the pupil and acts upon the retina. The class cannot get enough of science, making hypotheses, and participating in experiments.

We analyzed *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies for a variety of literary devices. This book generated a LOT of discussion regarding the themes of family relationships, entrepreneurship, problem-solving, and conflict resolution.

Our *Frindle* novel study has concluded. This class enjoys reading in groups, with partners, and independently. Our next read is a seasonal favorite, "*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*," by Barbara Robinson.





The Great Mail Race is on! We are thrilled to have received letters and questionnaires from Colorado, Florida, and West Virginia. We are learning interesting facts about many regions and states. We hope to receive more responses every week.

Congratulations to all of our TREP\$ entrepreneurs! Your products and ideas were a hit with your buyers in the Marketplace.

And congratulations to Sonny and Ava for creating two excellent presentations about two entrepreneurs they studied this trimester.

Here's to a healthy, happy holiday season and a magical 2025!

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.

In social studies, we have been diving into the Age of Exploration, considering what motivated powerful nations and intrepid seafarers to risk everything by sailing to the New World. To summarize their learning and look for common themes, students selected two explorers, researched their lives and expeditions, and created a Venn diagram that shows key differences and salient commonalities.



We'll soon pivot back to science instruction with the 'Spaceship Earth!' unit by contemplating the patterns we see in the skies above, why they happen, and the way they impact our world and our lives. Grade Five wishes everyone at LBS a very Happy New Year!

Sixth Grade

December was a month of finishing: we finished our fantasy reading unit by completing *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* just before winter break; in social studies, we finished up our studies on Ancient Latin America in which we learned about the Aztec,

Maya, and Inca; in science, we have finished the interaction of organisms and invasive species; and finally, in math, we finished our unit on ratios and percentages. That means that in January we will start all things new! In reading, we will start the novel, *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis; in social studies, we will be learning about Ancient Greece; in science, we will do some work on biodiversity and ecosystems; and in math, we will begin pre-algebra!

In addition to all that learning, we also had our Winter Concert to practice for. It went really well, of course! Happy New Year!

Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org