



# THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

March 2022

## Important Dates

- Mar 1 Optional Masking Plan shared
- Mar 2 Early Dismissal 12:45 pm -  
Teacher InService**
- Mar 7 PTA Meeting (6:30 PM)
- Mar 8 PTA Pizza Lunch
- Mar 8 Faculty Meeting
- Mar 9 End of 2nd Trimester
- Mar 15 BOE Meeting (6:30 PM)
- Mar 16 Report Cards Available in  
Parent Portal
- Mar 18 PTA Dance (rescheduled)
- Mar 22 PTA Pizza Lunch

- What sports or skills are you learning in PE?
- What acts of kindness did you do or see today?
- Remain positive. Try to set a positive example for your child, even when your own day has been challenging. If you show a positive attitude about your work, your child may feel better about their own.

### Kindergarten and Preschool Registration

It is time to start thinking about registering for preschool and kindergarten! The 2022-2023 school year will be here before we know it. If you have a child who will be 3 or 4 before October 1, 2022, please consider our integrated preschool program. If your child will turn 5 before that date, they are eligible to register for our Kindergarten. There is more information on our website. Registration forms can be found there too. We will be scheduling orientations in the summer as we get closer to the new school year.

### Mr. Arcurio's Corner

Women's History Month is celebrated in March. In the United States, Women's History Month traces its beginning back to the first International Women's Day in 1911. As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us also lift up the voices, contributions, and bravery of women in the margins.

Spring is approaching and learning is in full swing here at the LBS. As you may know, this is a time of year that students make the most academic and social learning improvements. Make school a priority. Very soon the weather will change with spring right around the corner. It can be challenging to keep our children focused on learning. What can you do to make school a top priority for your child? Keep these ideas in mind:

- Make attendance your number one priority. Let your child know that unless they are sick, they must attend school (and be on time.) Make an effort to schedule appointments after school hours.
- Talk about school activities and projects, particularly at the dinner table. Don't ask what your child did today or you will likely get the answer, "nothing." Instead, ask specific questions or prompts like:
  - What did you read in language arts today?
  - Tell me one thing you learned in science or social studies today.

**Registration Information  
for  
Preschool &  
Kindergarten  
can be obtained at  
[www.lebanonschool.org](http://www.lebanonschool.org),  
the main office, or by  
calling:  
(908) 236-2448**

### **LBS PTA Dance Volunteer Sign-Up**

The LBS PTA dance will be held on March 18th and the theme is Candyland. We would like to create a candy bar for the kids to take some treats home. The candy should be individually wrapped. Please send in your donation to the school marked LBS dance by March 15th. Please review the available slots below and click on [THIS LINK](#) to sign up. Thank you.

Better Together,  
Bruce Arcurio  
Lead Learner/Superintendent

### **Office Items**

#### **Emergency Closing/Delay Information**



Just a reminder that it is 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](http://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:* As we end our character trait of Fairness, we look forward to the March character trait of Responsibility. Responsibility means one acts in a mature manner and is prepared for any consequences both positive and negative. Also, this month, the fifth and sixth-grade Wingman student leaders met with the student body and participated in activities that fostered inclusion and acceptance among all. [Better Together!](#)

#### *Nurse's News:*

On the afternoon of Wednesday, 2/23 high school student, Caroline Robitaille, who is completing her Girl Scout project on sepsis awareness came to LBS and met with the students from preschool through fourth grade. She taught the students about this important topic and read a short book on caring for wounds. I then demonstrated on Caroline the 3 C's of avoiding serious infection: Clean, Care and Cover. The students all welcomed her enthusiastically. Many had wonderful questions and stories of how they cared for their wounds. Caroline was fortunate enough to have enough time to include the fifth-grade class before the school day ended.

### **MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH**

Eating for a healthy weight is not about going on (and off) the latest diet. The best way to achieve- and maintain- a healthy weight is to make small changes that you are willing to do forever. These six smart eating habits help you reach your health goals.

**Eat Early.** Kick-start the day with a power breakfast. Start with protein, add a whole grain and finish off with a fruit.

**Eat Regularly.** Snack smart to curb the munchies. Letting yourself get too hungry can lead to overeating.

**Eat Bright.** Fight disease with a rainbow of produce. Colorful fruits and vegetables help fight cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure, and the effects of aging.

**Eat Whole.** Enjoy nutrient combos in whole foods. Nature does an amazing job of putting nutrients together, ie. whole grains, dairy, and lean beef.

**Eat Strong.** Put some protein in every meal and snack. Protein leads to feelings of fullness and satisfaction.

**Eat Half.** Re-size super portions to fit your needs. Many servings are two or four times what your body needs or wants.

\*For more info go to [www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov) or [www.EatRight.org](http://www.EatRight.org).

### Safety Patroller of the Month

Congratulations to John Meyer for being Safety Patroller of the month for February 2022. He has shown great leadership skills by being prepared, being reliable, and dependable. He is consistently nice and demonstrates responsibility to the younger students at LBS. He 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 John.



### Art

What amazing growth our artists have demonstrated this month! Take a look at finished works on [Artsonia](http://Artsonia) because students have finished up drawings of backpacks, ceramic bowls, stenciled hearts, and more! Additionally, I hope you'll have some time during the entire month of March to view Lebanon Borough student artwork on display at the North County Branch Library in Clinton in the Youth Services Department. I'm so proud of our artists! I've also pulled three more names from the Art Prize Raffle! The winners are Penelope from Kindergarten, Teddy from First Grade, and Toprak from Sixth Grade.

Congratulations to the winners! I will pull names from the Raffle again in a couple of months, so I hope students continue to earn holes punches for their excellent behavior and focus during art!

We were back to business as usual in February. The kindergarteners and first graders took a break from painting large family portraits to make stenciled hearts inspired by artist Jim Dine. We also jumped into a beautiful ceramic lesson about the Japanese phrase "wabi sabi," which I hope your children can tell you all about. Next month they will finish up their tea bowls and family portraits. Second and third



graders practiced creative problem-solving skills by using a selection of techniques to create and emphasize a focal point in their cake paintings. You'll notice when they finish next month that no two projects are the same but each of the artists has been able to create uniquely successful artwork. Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders are very eager to move onto their ceramic maracas, but we've started a figural painting project in the interim. They will practice mixing their own secondary and intermediate



colors when painting a repetitive self-portrait. The goal is to create colorful paintings full of movement. Once the brush hits the paper, they will have so much fun! But I kind of wish every day could be a clay day too!

## **Enrichment, A.T., BSI**

*Enrichment/Media:* We have been busy in Enrichment and Media classes! Students have continued conducting, analyzing, and reporting on research at all levels of the Winter Olympics as well as past historic Olympic events both famous and infamous. It has not only been exciting but super interesting! Younger students researched specific sports and US Olympians while then tracking their progress and performances. The older students participated in this and also researched and reflected on highlighted moments like the Jamaican Bobsled Team, the decisions and handling of the Nancy and Tonya scandal, and the then unique decisions and strategies of Herb Brook's leadership with the 1980 US Hockey Team. Preschoolers through 2nd grade then participated in a STEM challenge with the Three Billy Goats Gruff! They build bridges using limited materials and specific criteria. Next month we will celebrate important Women in History and continue working with bridges and different limited materials, criteria, and constraints.

*A/T:* Students in A/T are finishing their Genius Hour projects which allows them to explore and learn a topic of their choice. Centering around one of four key components, students chose either a service project, a creativity project, worked towards the acquisition of a new skill or worked towards solving a problem. Students are about ready to present their work or findings both to the other A/T students and in some cases, to specific classes!



## **Music**

Our lower grades had a great time working with their personal percussion kits this month! Previously, we learned that in order to make a musical sound, you either strike/hit, shake, or scrape instruments in the percussion family. In order to practice these forms of sound production, we were each given our own kits which include rhythm sticks, egg shakers, and scapers. Through our Valentine's Day rhythm performance piece, all students worked on reading rhythms at varying levels. Even our preschool

students can read and perform quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests in different combinations! We divided into groups based on the timbre of our instruments in order to play different parts of our song. We are looking forward to continuing to work on various rhythm performance pieces during March as well as an introduction to pitch on the staff and solfege ear training.

The 3rd-grade students worked on rhythm performance at the beginning of the month and have now moved on to focus on reading pitches on the treble clef staff in preparation for our recorder unit this spring. We will be continuing to practice reading pitches during March and will begin working on the hand coordination aspect of playing recorders. The upper-grade students began creating their own rhythm pieces in 4/4 time and are getting ready to perform them for their classmates. As part of this rhythm composition project, students have been learning about meter and the subdivision of beats. We are looking forward to hearing all of these compositions in March.

Our instrumental students are thrilled to be back to playing together as a full band! We have been working on putting our instrument parts together and listening to each other as we perform as a group.

We have been evaluating the music to determine which instruments are featured throughout the composition and have been discussing balance in order to make the featured parts stand out. Additionally, students have been working to expand their personal ranges on their instruments and memorizing scales.



## **Physical Education/Health**

This February in PE we continued practicing hand striking games to further develop hand-eye coordination, playing in groups, sportsmanship, and teamwork. We also celebrated the Winter Olympics by participating

in some Winter Olympics-themed activities. The pictures below show our younger students participating in our bobsled Olympic torch relay. We used mats and connected scooters to make our bobsleds. There was also a Skeleton competition and Olympic Torch relay. Older students played volleyball games and activities to advance their skills and knowledge of the game. Health in January focused on the effects of Tobacco\Vaping, Alcohol & prescription, and illegal drugs. In March, PE will focus on striking with an implement activities such as floor hockey, paddle, and racket games, and batonball. Health will focus on the body systems and their parts, such as the skeleton, heart, lungs, and brain.



### Spanish

¡La clase de español is so fun! Kindergarten students have started identifying weather vocabulary through a song called ¿Qué Tiempo Hace Hoy? (“What is the weather today?!”) Kindergarten and first graders have been comparing and contrasting two stories, The Little Red Hen and Mañana Iguana, which have similar events and themes. First, second, and third grade students have started learning about season vocabulario, including “calor” (hot) and “frío” (cold).



Grades 4-6 have been continuing to study verbs in and out of context. Our conjugation chant has helped us remember the order of Spanish conjugations. We have been improving our listening skills by identifying lyrics in a song called "No Lo Tengo" and deciding what we DID hear and what we DIDN'T hear in the song. We continue to use Spanish integrated with sharing information, such as what numbers/months/days/seasons come before and after. Our classes are including more and more Spanish, and less English. All classes learned about Día de San Valentín, and the ways in which many Spanish-speaking countries celebrate Valentine’s Day. We made beautiful tarjetas for our families and friends!



### Preschool

AM: This month we have learned about clothes, valentines and started our ball unit. We made a heart pillow to practice sewing, we included all our friends in our valentines celebration and counted to 100 on the 100th day of school! We have grown so much already this year. We learned about the letters R, N, E, S and numbers

1, 2, and 3. We enjoyed a few nice days outside and look forward to more coming soon. We also celebrated our class reward for the ticket pull, we had a PJ day and had hot chocolate. In March we will learn about Dr. Seuss, St. Patty's day, spring, and continue our ball unit. We will continue through our alphabet and numbers while also working on rhyming, patterns, counting, and play skills.



PM: This month we have learned about transportation, valentines, the zoo, and the ocean. We included all our friends in our valentines celebration, made a heart buddy craft, and counted



**BETTER TOGETHER!**

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### Kindergarten

The kindergarten class has been having a lot of fun celebrating the February school holidays! We started off the month celebrating Groundhog's Day. We learned what type of weather causes shadows. We partnered with our 6th-grade friends to make predictions and test our predictions. We read nonfiction books to learn about groundhogs.



This year the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day fell on the same day of school. Our celebration included sharing their 100 projects, counting to 100, reading books about the 100th day of school, 100 pieces of pasta necklaces, 100-day hats, doing 100 hops, standing on one foot for 100 seconds, and even more!

In reading, we are learning about folktales and fairytales and the elements of those genres. We are learning to compare different versions of the same story. We read different versions of The Three Little Pigs. They also heard the version told by the wolf, called The True Story of the Three Little Pigs. We compared how the stories were alike and different. We read folktales including The Tortoise and the Hare and How Anansi Got His Stories and discussed the theme also known as the big idea of the story.

The class is continuing to learn new sight words. They are working on their "Sight Word Challenge" individually and learning words throughout our reading program as well. We are going to be writing a fairytale of our own. We will begin by organizing our ideas and then they will write their story in writer's workshop. The class is also reading books on their individual reading level on Raz-Kids. They are working towards incentives for reading books both at home and in class.

Next, we will be learning about poetry. We will practice finding rhymes in poems. This ties in well with our "Read Across America" Dr. Seuss week! We will be celebrating by listening to and reading many Dr. Seuss stories and doing projects. We will also partner read with older students.

In math, we will be completing our module on adding to and taking from within 10. In our next module, we will continue to work on addition and subtraction problems. They will be able to tell their own addition and subtraction problems using the information given. They will be working on word problems. They will also be learning to add to a given number to make 10. We will practice different ways to make 10. The students will continue to use centers and manipulatives to reinforce this concept.



In social studies, we have been learning about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We have also been learning about Ruby Bridges, as well as inventors like Alfred Cralle, for Black History Month. Next, in science, students will learn why birds lay eggs in spring. They will learn how birds change their environment to meet their needs. They will also do an activity to create a bird's nest.



## **First Grade**

February was an exciting month for 1st Grade! We celebrated Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, the 100th Day of School, and President's Day! In honor of Black History Month, we've talked about the incredible impact Martin Luther King Jr. had on the Civil Rights Movement. This week we will learn about Jackie Robinson and Harriet Tubman.

In Reading, the students have been reading fables. We've learned that fables have characters that are often animals, a lesson, a problem, and a solution. Most recently, we read The Cow and the Tiger. Now, we will revisit persuasive writing and poetry. The students will write a poem about something they like to eat or drink while using words that describe how their food looks, smells, sounds, feels, and tastes.

In Math, the students have learned how to solve for the

unknown using objects and drawings and write an equation that matches the word problem in Unit 6. The students have learned various strategies like drawing part-part-whole boxes and using cubes or counters to represent equations where one or both addends are unknown, but a total is given. Additionally, we continue to work on our math fact fluency every day. In the next unit, we will learn how to solve "How Many More" and other "Difference Unknown" subtraction problems using models and pictures.



1st Grade has had a very fun February and we are looking forward to seeing what March brings! Check us out in our Groundhog Day crowns after a fun-filled day of learning all about Groundhogs!

## **Second Grade**

February is always a short month, but one that is jam-packed with lots of wonderful learning in second grade! We are becoming stronger students every day, in all of our subjects. February is a time when we really see our routines perfected, and the second graders are doing a wonderful job of challenging themselves to be better.

In Writing, we are working on our informational texts, and getting to understand how to write like an author for a reader who knows nothing about our subject. We are diving deep into informational writing, how it is formatted, and how it is important to include several details so that our readers finish our writing pieces completely informed on our topics! Our current topic is to write all about the animals that we have chosen to research for our classroom "zoo!" We have learned how to create catchy titles, topic sentences, concluding sentences, and how to format our writing so that it is clearly organized.

In Reading, we continue to work on learning all about nature's wonders by reading informational texts and fiction stories. We are becoming better at making educated predictions about what will happen next in our stories and learning how authors use different descriptive words to understand how our characters are feeling.

In Math, we are mastering the art of two-digit addition and subtraction. We have learned several different ways to help us solve these problems: regrouping to make new tens, breaking down our ones, and using expanded form to help us. So far, regrouping seems to be our favorite way to help us solve!

In Science, we are finishing up our classroom "zoo" projects, and have made our habitats for the animals that we have chosen to do. Our clay animals and shoebox



habitats have turned out incredible! The students really enjoyed making them and paid attention to every detail while creating.

In Social Studies, we spent the month talking about Black History Month and learned about several important Black figures who helped pave the way for civil rights for their fellow Black Americans. We learned a great deal about Ruby Bridges, and wrote letters to send to her thanking her for her bravery! We were able to participate in a fun Wingman activity, which helped us learn how to be a good teammate, and support others in all their endeavors! We also had the chance to celebrate “Two’s Day,” which was extra special being in 2nd grade! We are excited for all that March has to offer and look forward to continuing to become stronger in all of our subject areas.



### **Third Grade**

This month has been very exciting as we celebrated Groundhog’s Day, our 100th Day of school, and Valentine’s Day together! We wrote preposition poems for a busy groundhog and wrote lengthy stories that shared an experience with a holiday “Love-Bot”. We were able to develop characters, setting, and plot in these funny, creative robot stories. In reading, we are focusing on historical fiction. This month we have been able to live vicariously



through the lives of characters struggling with life experiences. We learned about the Titanic disaster through the eyes of a 3rd class passenger and racial inequity during a time when our country was segregated and rights were not equal. This reading and learning, and subsequent discussions paired nicely with our Black History month reading of civil rights pioneers. We’ve also focused on famous Black Americans that fought incredibly hard through slavery and those who overcame incredible and unimaginable obstacles! In math we are learning to expand numbers to add and subtract quickly and accurately; we have been rounding and learning to estimate for “reasonableness”. In science, we are learning about invisible forces of pushes and pulls. We are pondering the workings of manmade ice boards and how machines really work. In social studies, we are deep into our “Regions of the USA” project. We learned the five main regions in the USA and are now researching one for great detail. We’ve also memorized all our states in alphabetical order through a “nifty” song! We look forward to spring and learning all about time and money, and fractions in math!



### **Fourth Grade**

Over the last few weeks, we have been applying multiplication to figure out the area and perimeter. Next up, Algebraic thinking: Number Theory- We will be investigating factors, identifying prime and composite numbers and number patterns.



In English Language Arts we have been reading various Realistic Fiction stories and identifying the story elements the past few weeks. We are also working on writing our own realistic fiction piece. This month we also researched various animal adaptations and created an Animal Adaptations book and shared it with our classmates. At the beginning of the month, we had a “Mystery Skype” session with a 4th-grade class from Massachusetts. Each class could only ask yes or no questions to eliminate states in order to figure out what state they were skyping from, similar to the game “Guess Who.” The children had a great time and were able to ask specific geographical questions to figure out their location quickly!



Our visiting class was very impressed by how fast we figured it out and didn't believe us that it was our 1st try. We are hoping to be able to get another class to do it again. We also shared some facts about our states with each other.



In Social Studies we have been learning about the early European explorers- John Cabot, Giovanni Da Verrazzano, and Henry Hudson. We discussed how these



explorers' names have carried on locally, the Hudson River and the Verrazzano Bridge. These explorers were looking for a "waterway shortcut" to Asia; we learned that there now is one, the Panama Canal. We watched a video of ships moving through the Panama Canal.

Last week we had a guest speaker Caroline, a North Hunterdon HS junior, who educated us about Sepsis, which is the topic of her Girl Scout Gold Award. The children learned how important it is to take care of a cut.

We also have been actively waiting and watching to see if the Duke Farms Eagles' egg hatched... we were able to see one emerge on Thursday last week! The 2nd eaglet should be emerging very soon. You can visit [Duke Farms Eagle Cam](#) to see the eagles caring for their young!

### **Fifth Grade**

The shortest month of the year has, unsurprisingly, gone by very quickly! In language arts, we've been working on two principal projects. Last month, we finished up the novel *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. Though the subject matter was more serious (with the story set in occupied Denmark during the Second World War), the class was interested in learning about the history of that time, and the true-to-life stories of everyday heroes who risked everything to help their friends. We will begin March by looking at some *realistic* fiction short stories. In writing, we are finishing up research on Winter Olympics, as students compose their own information articles on events they enjoyed watching these last few weeks. Next, we will move on to opinion writing, which should be enjoyable, because, on some occasions, fifth graders can be a bit opinionated...



We've now covered the four main operations involving fractions. The class is adept at adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing proper fractions, improper fractions, mixed numbers (and even mixed numbers that include improper fractions!) After some middle of the year-review, we'll move on to converting customary units of measurement, before tackling numbers with decimals. In science, we've wrapped up our unit on outer space, and hopefully, students can use what they've learned to monitor the night sky and understand what is happening above them.

Our class has also kept busy outside of the classroom. Safety patrollers were excited to resume their biweekly posts helping their peers stay safe and in a positive mood as they begin and end their day at school. Also picking back up was the Wingman program. The entire class participated and, in new teams for the Spring, got to bring fun and meaningful activities and conversations to other classrooms. Even though the program was on pause since November, the fifth and sixth-grade Wingmen did an excellent job, and everyone is looking forward to another fun day in March!

Fifth graders have also stood out in athletics. Many members of our class participate in the PTA's after school twice a week and there's been a lot of interest in the Running Club that will be starting up shortly. Furthermore, many members of our class enjoy a quick game of four-square during recess and fresh air

breaks. I've rarely a group so talented, with great sportsmanship, and also so determined to play by the rules. The LBS character trait for February was fairness, and the class embodies that quality to a tee!

### **Sixth Grade**

This month, we have completed our novel, *Elijah of Buxton*, tying 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 the end of the book, everyone was invested in the story of Elijah and Mr.

Leroy and the people Elijah discovers in a barn. Ask your student about it! This week will begin prep work for our next novel, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*.

Our new chapter in math is more of the same. We have finished our first algebra chapter and started on the second this month. In March we will continue to learn more about the intricacies of algebra. We may also get to a chapter on data collection and displays.

In science, we have been working on a group activity in class concerning 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 history, we have finished Ancient Rome and begun learning about the major religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Understanding these three religions will help the students better understand our next unit on Medieval Europe, as well as many current events happening today.

### **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.



Visit our district website

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

and follow us on Twitter at

[@LBSWildcats](https://twitter.com/LBSWildcats)