



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

May 2022

Important Dates

May 2	PTA Mtg 6:30 PM
May 2-4	Book Fair
May 2-6	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 5	BOE Mtg 6:30 PM
May 20	Reptile Assembly
May 24	K-2 Field Trip
May 25	6th Grade Visit to CPS
May 26	TREPS Marketplace
May 30	Memorial Day School Closed
Jun 1	Gr 4-6 Morris Museum Trip
Jun 6	PTA Mtg 6:30 PM
Jun 9	Spring Concert - 6:30 pm
Jun 10	Field Day
Jun 13	6th grade trip
Jun 14	6th Gr. Promotion - 6:30 pm
Jun 16	Early Dismissal 12:45 PM
Jun 16	BOE Mtg 6:30 PM
Jun 17	Last Day 12:45 PM Dismissal
Jun 17	6th Gr. clap out-12:45 pm
Jun 17	Report Cards in Portal

Mr. Arcurio's Corner

Wow! We have reached May. We are in the final stretch of the school year. As this month progresses it is a time for the students and staff to focus on synthesizing all of the things that they have learned throughout the year. There is still plenty to do at Lebanon Borough School as the temperature warms up!

If you look to the left you can see we have a packed May and June (and these are just the schoolwide things. There are many things happening in the classrooms every day!

May is the month that we take our state assessments. The dates for these are at the top of the next page.. I have pasted some "pointers" below from educationworld.com. Children have taken state tests since we were children and before. I encourage you to simply normalize these as a part of their school year. Ensure that the children get a good night's sleep, have a healthy breakfast, and encourage them to do their best. That is really all we can ask.

Our character trait for the final two months of school is "Trustworthiness." This is a key to success for students (and adults) of all ages. As we all know it often takes time to earn someone's trust, but it only takes a

moment to lose it. This is an important lesson for students to

learn. Being someone who can be trusted is a valuable trait. It leads to more opportunities, more freedom, and greater esteem in the eyes of others. Additionally, knowing that one is a trustworthy person is valuable for developing self-worth. Take some time to discuss the importance of this character trait with your children. Ask them how they can show that they are trustworthy at school, at home, at the store, at the library, etc. Thank you for all that you do in raising your children and partnering with us to teach them!



Coping With High-Stakes Tests

- ▶ Help your child to be calm, focused, and rested on test day. This begins with a good night's sleep.
- ▶ Prepare any needed materials ahead of schedule, and take time for a good breakfast before the exam.
- ▶ Remind your children that you support their effort and that daily performance is a much better indicator of aptitude than a single test.
- ▶ Plan a post-exam activity your child enjoys as a reward for his or her hard work.

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New Jersey Student Learning Assessment Dates

- Gr 3 & 6 ELA - May 9, 10, 11
- Gr 3 & 6 Math - May 12, 13, 16
- Gr 5 Science May 10, & 11
- Gr 4 & 5 ELA - May 17, 18, 19
- Gr 4 & 5 Math - May 20, 23, 24

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio
Lead Learner/Superintendent

Office Items

Kindergarten Registration

- It is time to start thinking about registering for kindergarten! The 2022-2023 school year will be here before we know it. If you have a child who will turn 5 before October 1, 2022, 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.

Health Office

Bully-Free Zone: The past month the character trait was Responsibility. The students focused on perseverance, self-discipline, and being accountable. They also considered their actions and the consequences of those actions. The last character trait for the year is Trustworthiness.

Nurse News: With the warmer weather brings opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. Don't forget your backyards may have ticks. Ticks can carry diseases, including Lyme disease. Here are some things you can do:

- Wear light-colored clothing and closed shoes or boots
- Wear long-sleeve shirts and pants, tuck pant legs into socks or shoes for extra protection
- Pull long hair back or wear a hat
- When hiking, stay on trails and avoid bushy areas with tall grass and leaf litter
- Use an insect repellent with 20-30% DEET. Always follow the directions for use carefully
- Inspect your skin after being outdoors every day, especially in and behind the ears, in the groin area, behind the knees, and under the arms
 - Don't forget to check your pets, clothing, and other outdoor gear that is used, i.e. Sleeping bags, backpacks, etc.

For more info about ticks and Lyme disease visit <https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/tick.html>



Safety Patroller of the Month

Congratulations to Toprak Ates for being the Safety Patroller for the month of April 2022. Toprak has shown great leadership skills by being prepared and reliable. He has proven that he is a team player, by being on time and supportive while on his post. His kindness towards the younger students has not gone unnoticed. Great job and keep up the good work! Congratulations Toprak.

BETTER TOGETHER!



Art

March seemingly flew by with our break and a good case of Spring fever. There were even a couple of days when the AC was on in the art room! This past month has been an example of how important it is to pivot when necessary and try to learn from each other. I am so extremely proud of the progress every grade has made. Kindergarteners and first graders are drawing from observation and learning about artist Vincent Van Gogh. Flower vase paintings should be finished up next month. All lower grade levels will be making visual elements for the Cinderella production with Mrs. Schaefer. The second graders have been working together beautifully to make their stop motion animation. Students are giving each other feedback, listening to one another, teaching one another, and giving a helping hand any chance they can. They continue to impress me and I'm really looking forward to the finished video. Third grade has had an opportunity to print traditionally and also with magic markers. We are learning to look critically at our prints to figure out how to make adjustments during the process. Experience and repetition is turning them into pros. Almost all students in the upper grade levels were nearing the end of their painting assignment. After noticing that the fourth graders could use a little more guidance, I called in selected sixth graders to advise tables during the fourth-grade art class. The "Teacher's Assistants" did a wonderful job guiding the fourth graders, and now their artwork is greatly improved. It was a wonderful sight having students leading students. Next month, the upper grade levels will get into clay and work on the Cinderella visuals as well.



Work is being prepared to exhibit during the Spring musical. As I'm labeling artwork, I'm reflecting on how much the students have grown this year. Slowly, more images are being shared on [Artsonia](#), which provides a nice way to see the progression of their acquired skills. I'm looking forward to celebrating their year of artistic growth in June.

Enrichment, A.T., BSI

Enrichment/Media

April has been a busy month (aren't they all?) with a lot going on! Students in 4th - 6th grade have been busy learning about developing, pricing, marketing, producing, and selling a product in our young entrepreneurs' program called TREP\$. We are all really excited about the big event on May 26th. Students in 3rd - 6th grade have been introduced to maneuvering through the state testing website and are getting comfortable with the platform. Meanwhile, students PreK through 2 are working on their coding skills. Yes, even the 4-year-olds are getting quite versed in this! Ask them! Students know how to sequence (or code step-by-step instructions to create a sequence) AND then now all know how to take a shortcut with Loops (repeats). As students grow more confident, Loops become more sophisticated with code before and/or after them as well as more complicated loops. Students can show you their skills within the following two Hour of Code activities as well as on Kodable (they would need to log in to that). [Code Monkey Jr](#) and the more difficult [Puppy Adventure](#)

In May, we are continuing to prepare and learn for our TREP\$ Marketplace in the older grades. Students in the younger grades will be introduced to Flip Grid, which is a really neat way of responding to a question through a video and reviewing others' responses for collaboration and fun learning. We will also be studying one of my favorite animals, Sea Turtles. I find their instincts so amazing and students love learning how to help protect them. Our learning will be complete with the adoption/sponsorship of

a strip of beach on Hilton Head Island. Our sponsorship will help protect that section when turtle nests are created. Students do not know any of this, however, so don't spill the beans yet!

A/T

A/T students have been working on Vision Boards and really trying to explore what some of their dreams are. Apparently, this is quite difficult for children! We have tapped into the different categories in which they can dream as well as shorter-term vs longer-term goals/dreams. May will get busy with all that is coming however, the plan is for these students to dive into and get their hands on some of the unique STEM opportunities we now have including our Tinkering Toolbox, our little 'Bots, a catapult challenge, and our electrical circuit kits. It will be fun!



Music

April was full of singing and dancing in preparation for our performance of our full school spring musical, *Disney's Cinderella, Kids*. This performance will feature the 5th and 6th grade Drama Club Members in the on-stage roles and students in grades preschool through 6th grade in the chorus of the show! We are so excited to be performing this musical LIVE during the LBS Spring Concert on **Thursday, June 9th at 6:30 PM!!!** In



addition to our singing, the upper grades have been learning about ballroom dancing and have been learning some basic steps in class. The lower grades have been focusing on the riser choreography to accompany their singing. We will be continuing these activities as part of our performance unit during the month of May in preparation for the big performance!

The third-grade students have been learning to play the recorder in addition to our *Cinderella* rehearsals. We have been working on our music literacy, hand coordination, and breath control during our unit. Students will be continuing to work on their recorders during the month of May and will learn to diagnose common problems as “recorder doctors.” This activity helps us to train our ears to find specific problems and choose remedies to correct the errors.



The 4th Grade Band came a very long way this month as we put together our first large band arrangement this month! In comparison to the repertoire in our books, this piece requires each instrument group to independently perform their parts to complement the other groups in the band. We have been working on our counting and listening skills in order to keep the group together. The 5th and 6th Grade Band is in the fine-tuning stages of their repertoire. We have been evaluating our performances and will be working to include more variety in our dynamics and articulation now that our parts are secure.

Physical Education/Health

This April in PE we practice basketball-related skills and activities. The pictures below are of students practicing dribbling while in movement. Students slowly lull the hula hoop across the floor as their friend attempts to dribble their ball in it for the length of the gym floor. The other pic shows the kids dribbling across the court and shooting at the hanging hula hoop. In Health class we discussed our different emotions and ways to relieve stress. For the month of May, we will play disc\frisbee golf, practice backyard games, and prepare for the field day.



Spanish

Happy mayo! Kindergarten students are continuing to identify clothing vocabulary through a song called Ponte la camisa (“Put on your shirt”). We used molding foam to create our own versions of clothing and described it to our friends using the vocabulary word and color. First graders have continued learning verb vocabulary with the YO

conjugation to talk about “I hug”, “I sleep”, and “I smile”. Second graders are continuing to work with a video about an invitation to fish, shop, and go to the movies, and have drawn their own depictions of each of these verbs. Third graders are continuing to work on a video conversation between friends getting ready for the first day of school.

Grades 4-6 are studying verbs in context. Fourth graders are continuing to work on creating a video based on the school supplies they have learned about and the verb TENER (“to have”). Fifth and sixth graders have been

playing a card game to practice verb conjugation, and we have started our graphic novel, Billy y Las Botas.



Preschool

AM:

This month we finished our ball unit and started the exercise unit. We have talked about balance, endurance, strength, and flexibility. We looked at all the exercises we do daily without realizing it, like running and climbing on the playground. We participated in a wingman activity and enjoyed spring break! We learned about rain and how it forms in the clouds, we got to see this happen in our experiment. Next month we will begin our alphabet countdown to the end of the year, and continue the exercise unit.



PM:

This month we continued to learn about different community helpers. We had a visit from a mail carrier, the south branch EMTs, and took a walking trip to the firehouse. We got to see the ambulance and got to sit on the stretcher to see what it feels like to go up and down on it. We got to see the firehouse and look

at the firetrucks, we also mailed letters to ourselves. We learned about rain and how it forms in the clouds, we got to see this happen in our experiment. Next month we will begin our alphabet countdown to the end of the year, finish our community helpers unit and learn about the life cycles of a flower, butterfly, and frog!



Kindergarten

This month in reading we completed our unit that focuses on different types of stories, for example, folktales, fables, nursery rhymes, and myths. We discussed what myths teach us about nature. We are continuing to work on long and short vowels with “magic e”. We practiced the short “u” and “o” word families. We are always adding to our sight word vocabulary. The kindergarten class is progressing well and at their own pace with our sight word challenge.



The class has completed many writing assignments this month and we will continue to build on our writing as the weeks continue. We are working on editing writing for punctuation and capital letters. We finished another mini book this

month. We also completed an inquiry project about our favorite children’s book. The class also enjoyed writing and making crafts for the spring season and holidays.

Our next reading unit focuses on what we can learn from the past. We will look at inventions and technology and how they have changed over time. We will be working on the reading comprehension skills: describe connections, find the main idea and details, and discuss theme.

In math, we worked on position words while continuing to practice identifying three-dimensional shapes. We have been working on analyzing and comparing two-dimensional shapes. We have been working with Cuisenaire rods, in our math centers, to help us learn addition and subtraction patterns. Next, we will begin working on place value foundations representing numbers to 20.

In social studies, we have been learning about the Earth inspired by Earth Day and Arbor Day. We have read many books, sang songs, and written about caring for the Earth and what we can do to help. Along with the environmental Earth lessons we have also been learning about the continents on Earth and how the Earth’s rotation creates day and night. In our upcoming lessons, we will be learning about maps and our location on Earth.



In science, we completed our Mystery Science: Sunny Sky’s Unit. We did activities to determine how the sun heats up the Earth’s surface. We learned how to use different materials to reflect the sun’s light and heat other places. We also worked with the fifth-grade class to discover how gases react under pressure. The kindergarten students were very excited to see the explosion! Next, in science, we will begin planting and learning about seeds, soil, and how to care for our plants.

First Grade

April flew by in 1st grade because we’ve been so busy learning and exploring! The students are currently wrapping up their Animal Research Books. They have learned so many cool facts about their animals and they’ve done a wonderful job turning their research notes into paragraphs! Soon, we will move on to our Light & Sound Unit. In this unit, the students will investigate light and sound, and how vibrating materials can make sounds. Additionally, we’ll explore light and illumination and use these

investigations to create simple devices that allow them to communicate across a distance.

In Reading and Social Studies, we've been learning and reading about different historical genres such as biographies and historical fiction. The students have enjoyed reading about Georgia O'Keeffe, Jackie Robinson, and what life was like before the railroad systems. In the weeks to come, we will continue with these genres. We will read about the story of our American Flag and also read a biography of Eleanor Roosevelt.

In Math, we just finished our unit on Data. The students have learned to interpret and represent data using picture graphs, bar graphs, and tally charts. In the next module, the students will gain a better understanding of place value. The students will learn how to represent numbers 10-90 using objects, drawings, and numerals.

We are excited for May and ready for warm weather! Check out our pictures of first grade catching some Vitamin D while reading about Jackie Robinson and also of our Spring activities before Spring Break!



Second Grade

We have had a very busy month in second grade! We are learning lots of new and exciting things that will prepare us for a lot more learning in the last few months of school!

In Reading and Writing, we have completed our unit on folktales and fables. We also wrote wonderful poems and painted with watercolors to make pictures to go with them! We are finishing up our class cookbook, and it will soon be sent to the publishing company to be created into a real bound book!

In Math, we not only mastered two-digit addition and subtraction, but we have moved on to three-digit addition and subtraction, and are practically experts! I am so proud of how much fun the students have with solving these problems on their

own and getting them correct using their additions and subtraction strategies!

In Science, we are getting ready to start our plants unit and plant flowers in the garden behind our classroom. We are learning all about the plant life cycle, and can't wait to watch our own flowers and vegetables grow, just in time for the summer!

In Social Studies, we are beginning to learn about the very beginning of the foundation of the United States. It is so interesting to see what life was like back then!

In May, we are looking forward to watching our plants go, getting back our published class cookbook and our publishing party, and learning even more math and reading strategies to help us become ready for third grade!





Third Grade

We love the Spring season in 3rd Grade! We celebrated with beautiful cinquain kite poems sharing a seasonal theme. We used descriptive adjectives that encouraged visualization. In writing, we also learned to summarize a story, specifically the chapter book called, The Chocolate Touch that we enjoyed reading together as a class. The story's main character taught us to be careful about what we wish for! We are now reading biographical stories of some extremely interesting people, like Frederick



Douglass- an early abolitionist who worked tirelessly for equal rights. We are also learning how stories are structured based on their genre and theme. In math, we are deep into fractions and learning to compare them by thinking through strategies based on their numerators and denominators. We are also preparing for the NJSLA and getting excited to “show what we know!” In social studies, we have successfully concluded our world culture study and are now focused on Earth’s resources and how to care for what we have been given. In science, we learned about the force of friction to answer the Mystery Science question, “*How can you slide faster down a slide?*” Students tested which materials would have the most friction and which materials have the least. Each group made a model of a slide using a stack of books, but it was tricky, so we went outside and used the playground slides - which were the perfect models! We learned a lot about materials that have low friction and surface tension! Next month we will continue with fractions and learn more about elapsed time. And our moms will be receiving something special made from a natural resource!



Fourth Grade

The fourth graders are anxiously awaiting the Fourth Grade Wax Museum on June 3rd at 9 am in the All-Purpose Room. We started reading our biographies and are taking notes as we read to use later to create a timeline and speech to present at the wax museum. The children are excited to dress up as their famous person and participate in the museum.

In Math, we are continuing to learn about fractions. We have mastered

adding and subtracting fractions with common denominators and converting improper fractions into mixed numbers. Over the next few weeks, we will be learning how to add and subtract mixed numbers and multiply fractions by a whole number. As we explore fractions we have many opportunities to talk about food in Math, which makes everyone hungry, but they realize how math can be used in everyday life.



Over the past few weeks, we have also been learning about sound and how sound waves move through the air. The children were very creative in making their own “Soundwave Watcher” in class before spring break.

During Wigman this month the children had a blast trying to work as a team to move the can around the circle without using their hands. We started out by passing the can around 2 smaller circles. For a challenge at the end, we combined both circles and passed 2 cans around the circle. They were able to figure out how to get the can completely around the circle. They realized: ***Teamwork makes the Dreamwork!***



Fifth Grade

Even with Spring Break eating up ten days of the month, April has been bustling for Grade Five. From safety patrol to Wingman, from band rehearsals to the Spring musical, from running club to launching their own businesses, LBS fifth graders have had their hands full! In and out of the classroom, our class has been hard at work on a number of different fronts.

In language arts, we have been reading a fun novel (*The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman) and using it to practice the skills we have been working on throughout the year: genre, point of view, figurative language, summarizing, and using evidence pulled from the book to support our answers. We are also reaching the exciting (and likely head-scratching) conclusion of our cleverly

bemusing read-aloud, Louis Sachar's *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*.

This past week, we were delighted to be joined by Mrs. Adamaitas' class for a science experiment. The fifth graders and kindergarten students worked together to test what would happen when a chemical reaction took place in a sealed plastic bag. Our class already discovered that mixing baking soda and vinegar would cause some pretty intense (and pretty fun) fizziness and did a great job describing their earlier investigations to our guests. Working in teams, the students set up the experiment inside the bag and prepared to observe a possible explosion. Everyone saw that the gas created by the chemical reaction created pressure that slowly caused the Ziplocs to expand and finally let off a gratifying Pop!



After that, the groups modeled what was taking place inside the bag. Using a thin rim of paper, we saw how many sets of fingers could fit inside before the edges burst open. We reasoned that the same thing was happening with the gas particles inside the bags. The Kindergarten class made a lot of great scientific observations and the 5th graders got the chance to teach the skills they've been practicing all year. We look forward to working with Mrs. Adamaitas and her students again soon!

As our chemical magic unit wraps up, we look forward to exploring the weather and properties of water. At the same time, we will dive back into social studies and learn about the culture and legacies of the Ancient Chinese and Indian civilizations. In math, we are close to wrapping up our major decimal topics for the year. After adding, subtracting, multiplying, ordering, living, breathing, and rounding decimals, we are finally tackling division with decimals. From there, we will go move onto learning a little bit about the metric system and exploring two-dimensional geometry.

Sixth Grade

April has truly flown by! We are finishing up our poetry writing unit (coinciding with National Poetry Month) and have already begun our next novel, *Walk Two Moons*. We have also been working particularly hard on our writing skills this month, crafting a compare/contrast essay on our last novel, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. Their writing has come a long way since September, but as I tell them often -- we can always improve our writing, no matter who we are!

In math, we completed Module 14 on Data Displays and will begin the next module on Measures of Center (mean, median, and mode). In social studies, we have been learning about Medieval times and are getting a study guide together for our final test in history.

In other news, 6th graders are getting ready for standardized testing in May as well as the beginning of their transition to Clinton Public School for 7th grade. We are looking forward to a visit from some of the 7th-grade teachers from CPS, as well as a visit to the school itself. We will also be working on our yearbook pages -- please don't forget to send pictures of your child for them to work with!

