



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR


Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

May 2024

Dr. 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 right you can see we have a packed May and June (and these are just the schoolwide things. Many things are happening in the classrooms every day!

May is the month that we take our state assessments. 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.



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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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!

Upcoming Schoolwide Events in May

- **NJSLA Testing:** During the weeks of May 7th and May 13th our students in grades 3-6 will be taking the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (See above for exact dates). These state assessments provide the school and the state with data regarding student achievement.
- **PTA Basket Bingo:** Basket Bingo for Kids and Adults will be held on May 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the LBS gym. We will play 8 games this year and will have prizes for both kids and adults - so

Important Dates	
May 6	PTA Meeting 6:30PM
May 6-10	Staff Appreciation Week/ National Nurses Week
May 7	BOE Mtg. 6:45PM
May 7-8	5th Grade NJSLA Science Test
May 10	PTA Basket Bingo 6pm
May 13-17	3rd-6th grade NJSLA ELA and Math Test
May 24&27	School closed for Memorial Day Weekend
May 30	Spring Concert/Show
May 31	Field Day
Jun 3	PTA Mtg. 6:30PM
Jun 5	12:45 PM Early Dismissal - Teacher InService
Jun 10	6th Grade Promotion 6:30pm
Jun 11	BOE Mtg. 6:45PM
Jun 13-14	Early Dismissal Days
Jun 14	Last Day of School

BETTER TOGETHER!

for each game, a child will win and also an adult. This will be a fun event for the family to enjoy together and proceeds will benefit the LBS PTA. [See the flyer](#) and register using the [Google Form](#)

- **Spring Concert/Show:** Join us on May 30th for an evening of music and performances by our talented students. This year's spring show is Beauty and the Beast Jr. It's a celebration of the arts that you won't want to miss!
- **Field Day:** May 31st will be a fun day for all students celebrating sportsmanship and physical fitness.

As we approach the end of the school year, let us reflect on the journey we have shared and the milestones we have achieved together. I am incredibly proud of our students, faculty, and staff for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. Together, we have created a vibrant and inclusive learning environment where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school community. Wishing you all a joyful and fulfilling month ahead!

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.
Superintendent

Office Items

Kindergarten Registration - [See Flyer](#)

K registration is always open. Please encourage Lebanon Borough families that you know who have children who 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 or email rmuia@lebanonschool.org for more information

Park Camp 2024

[See Flyer](#)

Check out this year's Park Camp which will be run by Mrs. Farrell, LBS Preschool teacher. Find the flyer and registration form at the link above.

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.

YMCA Before/After Care

- [Registration](#)

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. Throughout the school, I have seen students become more responsible for their actions. They also have shown how responsible they are during fire and safety drills. Well done everyone! The last character trait



for the year is Trustworthiness. The core of this trait is honesty, reliability, courage to do the right thing, and loyalty.

Nurse's News: This time of year the nurse's office sees an increase in students suffering with seasonal allergies. Here are some tips that might help during this time.



Safety Patrol

Congratulations, Tyler Carruthers, You've been recognized as the Safety Patroller for the month of April. Your leadership shines through your responsibility and willingness to help others. Teachers and parents have noticed your consistent politeness and kindness while on post. I'm incredibly proud of your hard work and dedication to keeping everyone safe. Congrats!



The Walking School Bus

On Friday, April 26 Lebanon Borough School attended the *Walk/Roll to School Day* participating in the "Hunterdon County Safe Routes to School Program" which educates our students on walking to school safely. Students received a sticker for coming along. Please join us on our Walking School Bus in October! Hope to see you there!



Student Council News

Last month, the LBS Student Council hosted the second annual March Madness tournament to find out the school's favorite book character. This year, we chose eight Heros and eight Villains. It all came down to TWO Dr. Seuss characters – the Lorax and the Grinch!

The whole school joined us for an assembly to listen to parts of both books and announce the winner. State Trooper Gonzalez also joined us for the assembly and read his favorite part of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. By a vote of 52 to 39, the winner was THE GRINCH!

To raise money to help the Student Council help make our school better, we are holding a Mother's Day Plant Sale. We have fresh petunias, dahlias, and geraniums for sale. Thank you to everyone who has ordered flowers so far! Orders are due by Monday, May 6th.

Soon, we will also be collecting supplies for Operation Shoebox.

Sixth graders will be packing food and supplies for troops overseas. Thank you for any donations! All student council members will also be writing letter to say Thank You to the troops and let them know what's going on here at home!



Art

All students are working on their final art projects of the year! Kindergarteners and first graders completed a fun printmaking project inspired by Paul Klee. After printing cityscapes using wooden blocks, they attached drawings of Klee-like cats into the prints. We were able to start playing Musical Watercolors to prepare materials for their next assignment involving weaving. They practice watercolor techniques such as wet on wet and the salt trick while playing a round of the game.



When the music starts we dance around the room. When the music stops, we seat ourselves at ANY painting in the room and practice our techniques again. It also serves as an exercise in letting go, because no one person keeps any single painting. The second and third graders have been reflecting on their portraits using Flipgrid and moved onto their printmaking projects. They've prepared surfaces by painting concentric circles and must follow the procedures to discover a stunning radial design next month. The fourth grade students completed their mice portraits, each one unique and interesting with multiple media. They enjoyed the autonomy they had while choosing how to accomplish this art task. Since they've finished in a timely manner, they'll have time next month to do needle felting! The fifth and sixth graders' radial cardboard reliefs are moving along nicely. They've finished painting them and will

get a chance to spray paint them in the coming weeks. I'm excited for the community to hear stories explaining their Grandma Moses-inspired paintings. Videos they've created will be viewable at the Spring Art Show during the Musical on May 30th.

Next month, all students will participate in the making of a mural that will be installed in the Lunch Service Room. The mural is inspired by the book, *Thank You Omu*, by Oge Mora. It is a lovely story about gratitude and community, and its illustrations are breathtaking. As always, keep watching our collection of artwork grow on [Artsonia](#). At the end of the year a lot of unfinished projects finally get finished and then uploaded, so be sure to check them out.



Enrichment/Media/Technology

April has flown by! We finished the March Mammal Madness Challenge, it was the first time that no mammals made it to the championship. Everyone was surprised that it ended up being a battle between the Giant Squid and the Great White Shark! In the end, the Great White Shark ended up taking the crown. It was fun learning about all the animals (and even some plants) that were competing for the 2024 March Mammal Madness title! We all can't wait to watch the competition again next year.



On April 8th, we all enjoyed viewing the solar eclipse outside together. Thankfully we had pretty great weather that day so we were able to view the eclipse. Another huge **THANK YOU to the PTA** for making that possible by buying solar eclipse glasses for everyone in the school!

Grades 3-6 have been working on NJSLA practice tests to understand how the platform works. We are also

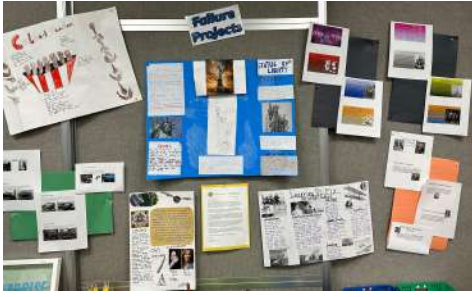
learning how to manipulate all the tools they have access to during the upcoming assessments in May.

Over the past month grades K-2 we learned about how to keep the earth clean in honor of Earth Day this month. We discussed all the ways that we can help to take care of our Earth such as: recycling, picking up trash, and turning off the lights when we are leaving a room.

AT- Bridge Engineering

Grades 3/4 are building a bridge to solve a problem- A road is between the turtles' nesting grounds and their habitat. The students needed to engineer a bridge to provide a safe pathway for the turtles to cross the road.





After learning about some of the many ways brides are built, Grades 5/6 have been engineering a bridge that is made of 1 pound of spaghetti and hot glue. The goal is to see how much weight the completed bridges can hold while spanning 2 tables. We will have to see how much weight the bridges can hold once they are completed.

Fifth and sixth graders also shared their *Failure Projects* with second and third graders at the beginning of the month. The students were to design an exhibit dedicated to the concept of *failure and frustration* for the Smithsonian. I asked students to create an exhibit to help museumgoers recognize that failure and frustration are normal and necessary experiences on the way to success.

Music

This month in music, all of the grades are in rehearsal mode for Beauty and the Beast Jr. We have fully finished the song "Be Our Guest"!

This includes 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st, kindergarten, and preschool(afternoon)

For extra practice, the 6th graders are invited to come to school at 7:45 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays beginning April 30th.

The 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in the band are working on polishing their music for the concert.

We look forward to performing for you.



Physical Education/Health

This April we practiced and played games and activities to improve our foot-striking abilities. We practiced different drills and games to improve using our feet to manipulate objects. This included dribbling with our feet, soccer, crazy soccer, and kickball. Below is a pick of students playing crazy soccer with large foam dice and our 6th-grade kickballers! This coming May in PE we will practice disc/frisbee games, and backyard games and prepare for the field day activities. In health, students will learn from the Great Body Shop unit workbook for their grade level.



Spanish

¡Awesome abril! In April, grades K-3 continued learning about animal vocabulary. We learned vocabulary for many farm animals and expanded our study into safari and water animals as well. Kindergarteners practiced their Spanish alphabet knowledge and matching skills through puzzles and memory games. Grades K, 1, and 2 are continuing to work on listening comprehension and showing understanding through movement. We have all adopted a special "stuffie" animal, named it, and will begin using it to learn descriptive words as well as create little stories. Grade 3 students have been asking questions to interview each other about their stuffed animals. Grade 4 students read a Spanish magazine to improve their reading skills and presented a poster about an article they read. Grades 5-6 are continuing to watch their telenovela "Buena Gente" and discussing predictions along with improving listening skills in Spanish. This fascinating story has got us excited to find out if Sophia finally finds Diego, and is teaching us so many vocabulary words and grammar along the way!

Preschool

AM: This month in preschool we have been learning about exercises we do everyday and why we do them. We practiced exercises on the playground and in the classroom, we looked at some of the equipment used when we exercise and how we keep ourself safe, like wearing a helmet when riding a bike. We went on our trip to the farm and had a great time!!!! Next month we will finish up the uppercase letters and move on to lowercase letters, learn about water, participate in field day and start our alphabet countdown to the end of the year.



PM: This month we finished our life cycle unit learning about frogs and plants, we planted seeds and watched them grow. We started our community helpers unit learning about vets, librarians and doctors. We had a great time on our trip to the farm. We started learning about lowercase letters, rhyming and numbers. Next month we will continue our community helpers unit and start our alphabet countdown to the end of the year. Hopefully we will have some community helpers visit our classroom.

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 have practiced many short vowel 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. The class also enjoyed writing and making crafts for the spring season and holidays. We enjoyed an egg hunt this month and we sat on eggs and waited for them to hatch.

Our new reading unit focuses on what we can learn from the past. We recently began looking at inventions and technology and how they have changed over time. We will be working on the reading comprehension skills: describing connections, finding the main idea and details, and discussing the theme.

This month in math we completed many modules on addition and subtraction word problems and solving for the unknown. In the next few weeks, we will begin working on Geometry. We will also be working with cuisinaire rods, in our math centers, to help us learn addition and subtraction patterns.

In social studies we have been learning about the Earth inspired by Earth Day and Arbor Day. We have read many books, sung songs, and written about caring for the Earth and what we can do to help. We





created projects using recycled materials. Along with the environmental Earth lessons we have also been learning about the continents on Earth and maps and our location on Earth. In our upcoming lessons we will be learning about how the Earth's rotation creates day and night.

In science, we began planting and learning about seeds, soil, and how to care for our plants. We have also been learning about animals in springtime. We have been looking and listening for signs of spring. We recently visited Doyle's Farm and learned more about baby animals. The students seemed to really enjoy the trip. Next, in science, we will also be doing activities to determine how the sun heats up the Earth's surface. We will be learning how to use different materials to reflect the sun's light and heat to other places.

First Grade

The end of April has already snuck up on us. In math, we have been learning how to compare numbers using tens and ones. In ELA, we've been learning about many different genres, including persuasive texts and informational texts. Soon, we will be moving from nonfiction into fiction! In reading, we've been learning about blends. We've just recently finished up our unit on light and sounds in science. The first graders had fun figuring out how it all works! In social studies, we will begin learning about how the world has changed over the years. What an amazing April!



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! From celebrating the Solar Eclipse with the whole school to getting to learn all about different ways Indigenous People lived

with the third graders, it has been a jam-packed month! In Reading and Writing, we have completed our recipe writing after learning about instructional texts. Each student contributed two recipes and has hand-drawn two illustrations of their recipes to be published in our official class cookbook! We are so excited to get these back and officially be published authors.

In Math, we not only mastered two-digit addition and subtraction, but we have moved on to three-digit addition and subtraction, and are doing very well with it remembering the tools we learned from two-digit regrouping helps us! I am so proud of how much fun the students have with solving these problems on their own and getting them correct using their addition and subtraction strategies! We also took a short break from addition and subtraction to learn about time and how to read a clock.

In Science, we have learned all about landforms and volcanoes and constructed our volcanoes to have "eruptions" of our very own! Each student researched their own volcano, and we formed them out of scrap paper and plaster craft to make models



of the many famous volcanoes around the world. We were able to share our eruptions with our families. In Social Studies, we learned about all of our natural resources, and what we can do to reduce, reuse, and recycle them to help the Earth! The students have brainstormed so many wonderful ways to help keep the Earth healthy and clean!

May is upon us, and we are looking forward to finishing the last full month of the school year with a lot more learning and preparation before we become third graders!

Third Grade

We are currently embracing the full bloom of Spring here in 3rd Grade! In math, we've delved into various exciting concepts like geometry and metric essentials. Students have engaged in interactive math centers where they explored metric measurements and geometric shapes. Additionally, we've tackled a challenging fractions unit and have now progressed to graphing and learning how to collect and organize data. In science, our focus has been on weather events. Recently, we embarked on an engineering task where students brainstormed ways to secure a house from a windstorm. Their creativity and problem-solving skills were put to the test! In social studies, we've centered our discussions around Earth-related topics and ways to preserve our planet. We need to understand how we can protect the Earth from harm. Our current reading theme involves diving into biographies. We've explored the inspiring life stories of Milton Hershey and Frederick Douglass. These individuals have shown us the power of perseverance and motivation. Our classroom discussions have been insightful and engaging. In writing, we're honing our persuasive skills and emphasizing the importance of tone in conveying a strong message. We've also had fun crafting Diamante Poems, which provide a twist in topic, keeping us entertained and creative. We recently collaborated with our first-grade friends for an Earth Day activity involving colors and water, fostering a sense of unity and environmental awareness. As we gear up for state testing, we're excited to showcase the hard work and dedication we've put in throughout the year. We're all prepared and eager to excel! Looking ahead to next month, we anticipate immersing ourselves in exploring unique cultures in both our reading and social studies lessons. This month we celebrated the joy of learning from one another and experiencing growth as a classroom community.



Fourth Grade

The Fourth Grade brought World History alive this year. They worked so hard researching and writing about historical figures throughout our biography unit study. The students brought their studies alive by delivering first person two minute memorized speeches which they drafted in chronological timeline order. With detailed Biography Poster Storyboards, they curated an informative, creative, and well performed Wax Museum experience for families, staff, and students of LBS. Great job, Princess Diana (Desi), Henry Ford (Andrew), Ghengis Khan (Chase), Helen Keller (Valentina), Milton Hershey (Jake), Betsy Ross (Mackenzie),





Sir Isaac Newton (Oliver),
Malala Yousafzai (Anna), and
Anne Frank (Amelia).

This Spring we were able to view the solar eclipse with our families and classmates. We continued our celebration of Earth with engaging and informative Earth Day text selections, poems, and student written Earth Day Acrostic poems. April is Poetry month and we have been reading and identifying and utilizing a variety of poetic elements and poetry styles. We looked up favorite song lyrics and identified alliteration, repetition, imagery, assonance, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, similes, metaphors, and personification within their songs. We created an alliteration ice cream shop with some wacky, wonderful, wildly

creative cones on display in our room. Strawberry Salmon Sauerkraut sounds scrumptious.

Math modules focused on fractions, mixed numbers, comparisons, decimals, money, and multi step word problems. We are heading into lines, rays, segments, angles and symmetry in our next modules. Our fast facts for multiplication and division practice continues every day. We have earned lots of certifications of completion, and are challenging ourselves each day with Rocket Math extension practice sessions.

The Social Studies units of US Landscapes and Climates had us investigating the topics of causes of global warming, climate change, human, plant, and



animal adaptations, El Nino, and ways we can conserve energy. The class discussions, and solutions for the future were well informed and filled with excellent ideas on how we can all work together to make improvements to our carbon dioxide emissions. The students created posters to inform others in the school community how we can affect change by taking time to reduce, reuse, and recycle, and other ways to protect our environment.



We are doing very well practicing word spelling rules, subject verb agreement, simple and complex predicates, simple and complex sentences, and many

more conventions. The students are writing RACE with improvement, detail, and organized points. Their journal responses have also developed beautifully throughout the year. The class is gearing up for the state testing and working hard every day.

HATCHET by Gary Paulsen was a thoroughly captivating read aloud. The class had a lot of strong opinions about the themes of survival, wildlife, separation, and fear. And we just started a new *I SURVIVED: The Revolutionary War, 1776*. The class recognized the tie in to our Washington's Crossing Field Trip, and are excited about this historical fiction literary selection.

Thank you to our Mystery Readers who have visited us this year! We love hearing your stories. Please let me know if you would like to be a Mystery Reader.

Happy Spring!





Fifth Grade

Even with spring break taking up the beginning of the month, the fifth-grade class has packed a lot into April! The entire class has pitched in to help report the morning announcements and lead the school in the Pledge to the Flag for the last time this school year. Extracurricular activities have also been keeping grade 5 busy! From student council to games club to safety patrol, and the upcoming spring play and band concert, everyone has gotten involved.

We've begun our last major novel study of the year, *Holes*. A modern classic of juvenile literature, this Newbery Award-winning book tells a

multigenerational epic, as story threads from different places and times come together on the shoulders of Stanley, our unlikely hero. Our class has been listening to the *Wayside School* books, also written by Louis Sachar. Even though the books are very different, it's been fun picking out the unmistakable tone and subtle humor of the author present in both stories.

As for math class, we are wrapping up our decimals unit by solidifying multiplication skills and learning how division with decimals can be done. From there, we'll move into some work on the coordinate plane, sorting quadrilaterals, and converting metric units. In social studies, we have been learning about the early days of the Thirteen Colonies and what life was like for everyone who lived there in the days before the Revolution.

In writing, students have wrapped up their argumentative essays in which they staked out a side in the very real debate about whether or not zoos are good for the animals they keep. By conducting research, drawing on their own experiences, and strategically using compelling language, they worked hard to persuade their readers. After reading them all, it's hard to choose a side!



Sixth Graders enjoy April 8th's solar eclipse with Pre-K buddies.

Sixth Grade

April has really flown by! We are just completing our study of the novel, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne. It is a fable about the Holocaust, told from the perspective of a nine/ten-year-old German boy. Leading into this book, we learned about fables and their function as a story genre. This fable is more complicated than most, but it has several important life lessons for our time. Once finished with this, we will work on some poetry and then move on to a new novel after state testing.

In history, we have completed our brief foray into the Abrahamic religions, and have moved on to Medieval history. I'd say this is an area most are interested in as it deals with kings and knights, sword fights and wars,

castles, and manors. We are about halfway through our mandated Civics unit. It has sparked great discussion in the classroom about human rights and what our Founding Fathers intended for our government.

In math, we continue to hone our algebra skills and work on statistics and data displays. Next week we will be reviewing the NJSLA which I am sure the 6th graders are looking forward to (we are learning about irony and sarcasm in 6th grade!). Meanwhile, in science, we have completed our explorations of

forces and motion and are working on some sun activities related to the universe and geologic time scale.

In other news, we are preparing for our transition to Clinton Public School for 7th grade. We are looking forward to a joint field trip to the Somerset Patriots' game on May 29, as well as a visit to CPS itself on June 6. We will also be working on our yearbook pages -- please don't forget to send pictures of your child for them to work with.

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!

