



# THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

May, 2025

## Dr. Arcurio's Corner

Greetings Lebanon Borough School community! May has arrived, bringing us into the final stretch of what has been an incredible school year. As we enter these last weeks together, it's a perfect time for students and staff to reflect on and synthesize all they've learned and accomplished. Despite the approaching summer break, there's still plenty of excitement and learning happening at Lebanon Borough School as the days grow longer and warmer. Just take a look at our calendar for May and June—and these are just the schoolwide events, with many more enriching activities happening in classrooms daily!

May is when we conduct our annual state assessments. I'd like to share some brief guidance for parents: State testing has been a consistent part of education throughout generations. Please treat these assessments as a normal part of the school year. Ensure your children get adequate rest, eat a nutritious breakfast, and remind them to do their best—that's truly all we can ask of them.

Our character trait focus for these final two months is "Trustworthiness." Being trustworthy means others can count on you to be honest, reliable, and responsible—qualities that are essential for building strong relationships and a positive community. When students keep their promises, tell the truth, and take responsibility for their actions, they earn the trust of others and develop integrity that will guide them throughout their lives. I encourage you to talk with your children at home about what it means to be trustworthy. Ask them about times they've demonstrated honesty or reliability, and help them think about ways they can show others they can be counted on. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our students grow not just academically, but also in character!

As we approach the conclusion of another school year, I want to express my profound gratitude and pride in our entire school community. The growth I've witnessed in our students—academically, socially, and emotionally—has been remarkable. Our dedicated faculty and staff have created learning environments where curiosity flourishes and each child is valued. Our families have provided support through volunteering, participating in events, and partnering in their children's education. The strength of our school community lies in how we come together, supporting one another and celebrating our collective achievements. As we navigate these final weeks, let's maintain our momentum and finish the year strong!

Wishing you all a joyful and fulfilling May.

Better Together,  
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.  
Superintendent

### Important Dates

- May 5-9: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 7-8: NJSLA 5th Science
- May 12-16: NJSLA 3rd-6th ELA/Math
- May 19-23: NJSLA Make-ups
- May 26: Memorial Day
- June 4: Early Dismissal - Inservice
- June 4: 6th Grade Promotion 6:30pm -tentative
- June 5: Spring Concert/Show
- June 6: Field Day
- June 10: Early Dismissal
- June 11: Early Dismissal - Last Day of School

## YMCA Before/After Care

- [Registration](#)

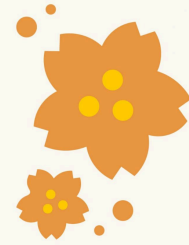
### Health Office...

**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. The Preschool and Kindergarten classes had a visit from a Tooth Fairy Helper. They learned the importance of taking care of their teeth. The 5th and 6th grade Wingman Team visited with the younger students for a fun-filled Wingman Activity Day. The students continue to show their responsibility in how well they perform during the fire and safety drills. 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 from seasonal allergies. Here are some tips that might help during this time.

### 7 TIPS FOR COPING WITH SPRING ALLERGIES:

1. Consider allergy medication
2. Check daily pollen counts
3. Keep your windows closed
4. Change up your diet
5. Leave your shoes at the door
6. Wash your hair
7. Invest in a HEPA air filter



### Walking School Bus

On Thursday, April 17th, Lebanon Borough School attended the Spring Walk/Roll participating in the "Hunterdon County Safe Routes to School Program", which educates our students on walking to school safely. Students received a zipper pull for coming along. Please join us on our Walking School Bus in October! Hope to see you there!



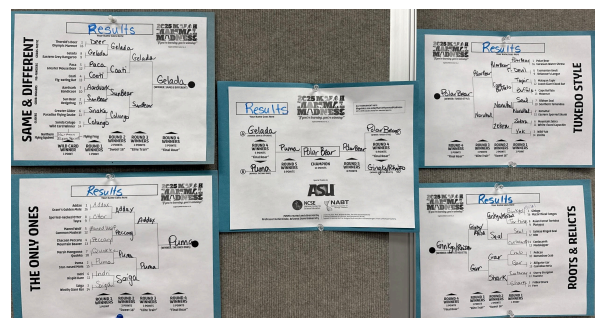
### Art

This month, our K-2 students explored printmaking, watercolor, clay, and made bunnies for Easter/Springtime. Our 3rd graders learned how to use watercolor in different ways to create a springtime bunny painting. The 4th and 5th graders studied Talaveras in Spanish class and designed and glazed their own Talaveras for Cinco De Mayo. The 6th graders have been working on the set design for the high school musical.



### Enrichment/Media/Technology

April has flown by! We finished the March Mammal Madness Challenge, it was a battle to the end! Polar bear and puma were in the final roar.... POLAR BEAR WON the championship. Everyone was surprised that a polar bear beat the puma! It was fun learning about all the animals (and even some plants) that were competing for the 2025 March Mammal Madness title! We can't wait to watch the competition again next year.





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. Kindergarteners have been reading and comparing various versions of fairy tales. We practiced retelling the different versions of

the fairytales and even acted some of them out!

Kindergarten and first grade also discussed 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 leave a room.



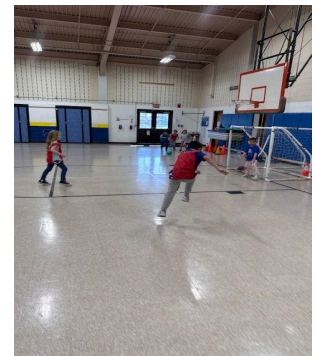
### Music

This month in music, all of the grades are in rehearsal mode for High School Musical Jr. We have fully finished the song "Stick to the Status Quo"! This includes 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st, kindergarten, and preschool(afternoon). For extra practice, the 5th and 6th graders are invited to come to school at 7:45 on Wednesdays and Thursdays! The 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in band are working on polishing their music for the concert. We look forward to performing for you!



### Physical Education/Health

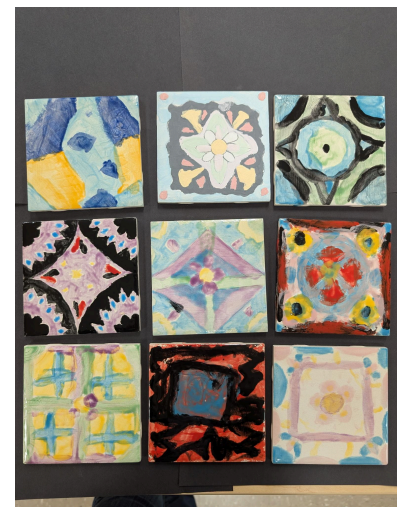
This April, we practiced and played games and activities to improve our foot striking abilities. We practiced different drills and games to improve using our feet to manipulate objects. This included dribbling with our feet, soccer, crazy soccer, and kickball. Below is a picture of students playing crazy soccer with a large foam dice and football, and other funny-shaped objects! This coming May in



PE, we will practice disc frisbee games, 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

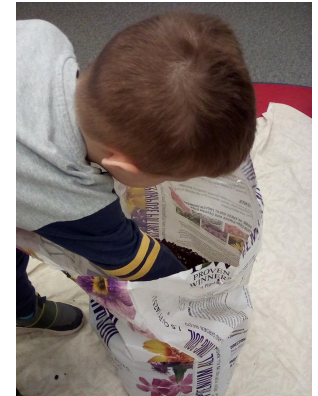
¡Amazing abril! In April, kindergarten continued to practice their numbers and colors--this time by using their listening skills. We continued to reinforce classroom routines and behaviors. Grade 1 is continuing to work on listening comprehension and showing understanding through movement with numbers, colors and calendar information. Grades 2- 3 have been working on collecting and presenting data about our class's preferences on everything from restaurants to seasons to animals. We also created videos to present our data. Grades 4-5 completed a cross-class project about the beautiful Mexican tiles called "Talaveras"--by learning about these special tiles in Spanish class and creating a version of the tiles in Mrs. Baker's art class. Check out this photo of our beautiful artistic Talaveras! (Thanks, Mrs. Baker!) Grades 4, 5, and 6 have been watching a fascinating



documentary called “The Most Dangerous Ways to School” to learn about the culture and daily routines of students in Colombia. We have had a fabulous month!

### Preschool

**AM:** This month in preschool, we have been learning about the exercises we do every day 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 ourselves safe, like wearing a helmet when riding a bike. We watched our spider baby plant roots grow and planted them in soil to take home. We also had an assembly about dental health and learned how to brush our teeth and what foods are good for our teeth, and which ones are bad. 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. We will also have a field trip with kindergarten!!!!



**PM:** This month, we finished our life cycle unit, learning about frogs and butterflies, we watched our seeds grow, and got to take them home. We started our community helpers unit learning about vets, librarians, firefighters, EMTs, military personnel, nurses, farmers, police, and doctors. We started learning about lowercase letters, rhyming, and numbers. We mailed letters to ourselves when we learned about the mail carriers. Next month, we will continue our occupation unit and start our alphabet countdown to the end of the year. We will have a few community helpers visit and go on a field trip with kindergarten!



### Kindergarten

This month in reading, we are working on a unit that focuses on the genres of: folktales, fables, fairytales, nursery rhymes, and myths. I read the class a variety of fables, and we discussed the morals of each. We have also been comparing and contrasting different versions of well-known fairy tales. In phonics, we will be working 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 the 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. This month in math, we completed many modules on addition and subtraction word problems and solving for the unknown. We have been working on different ways to make numbers up to ten. We have also been working on counting from a given number. In the next few weeks, we will begin working on Geometry. They will learn two and three-dimensional shapes.

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. Along with the environmental Earth lessons, we will also be learning about the continents on Earth and maps, and our location on Earth. In our upcoming lessons, we will also 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 the springtime. We have been looking and listening for signs of spring. Next, in science, we will also be doing activities to determine how the sun heats 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

It's been a busy April in First Grade! In science, we are writing our animal research books. Each student chose an animal to research. They've learned about their animal's habitat, geographic location, physical characteristics, predators, and food chain. When we're done with our animal research books, we will begin a Social Studies unit on Maps and Globes.

In math, the students have been learning how to solve problems that involve "more than" and "fewer than" using manipulatives, counters, and models. In the weeks to come, we will learn how to interpret data using bar graphs and tally charts.

In reading, we will be reading a couple of persuasive texts. We'll learn that the author provides their opinion on a topic and gives reasons to support their opinion to persuade their audience. In the weeks to come, the students will be writing their own persuasive text.

We've also been practicing our high-frequency words with fun games. Check out the pictures of the students playing sight word Battleship and sight word Jenga!



### Second Grade

Exciting Updates from Second Grade! This month has been full of excitement for our Second Grade students! In science, we explored the fascinating world of plants and their needs. Did you know that plants can begin even without sunlight? We conducted an experiment by growing bean seeds in cups, some with light and some without, demonstrating how plants can start their life cycle in the dark! We learned that plants require nutrients from the soil to grow strong. In reading, we wrapped up our unit on biographies. We discovered that special individuals are those who care for others and their environment, and who believe in making a difference! Our reading was very inspiring. In math, we focused on adding and subtracting larger numbers, along with accurate measurements using inches, feet, and yards. We also created line plots to visually represent our measurement data, showcasing important information in a clear way. Our writing lessons have been equally rewarding. We crafted beautiful personal narratives and shared them with our classmates. It was incredible to hear each other's descriptions! We learned to incorporate dialogue, which truly enhanced our stories. Additionally, we wrote descriptive poems about spring and summarized books we read. As we prepare for our Colonial Day event



with parents, we've delved into the history of Colonial times, exploring both the positive and negative aspects. Our studies also covered Native Americans and how Colonialism impacted their way of life. In celebration of Earth Day, we showcased beautiful songs and poems, including one performed in sign language! Here's to a wonderful spring and an exciting May ahead!



### Third Grade

It's hard to believe that April has come and gone- we only have about seven weeks left together in third grade! We have accomplished so much this month, and we continue to grow into wonderful, hard-working individuals! In ELA, we are continuing to read *Matilda* and work together to understand the author's purpose and the many lessons in this fun and whimsical book. We are beginning our personal narratives unit, and will be turning them into a book to be "published" by the end of the school year.



The third graders have come so far in their writing

journeys, and they enjoy writing more and more every day!

In Math, we have mastered area and perimeter and are moving onto the world of fractions! We are very excited to conquer this new topic and see how fractions are everywhere in the world around us.

In Social Studies, we continue to learn about the environment around us and how not only do we adapt to our surroundings, but also how we can make the Earth and our community a better place. We've also had the opportunity to work with the kindergartners on game skills and taught them several new STEM games!

We have lots to look forward to in May- we have our field trip to the Morris Museum, state testing that I know we are going to conquer, and so much more learning to do before June comes and we move on up!

### Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade fluttered into Spring with so many activities and accomplishments! The students brought history to life at our Wax Museum. Our students read *WHO WAS...?* biographies, researched the internet, created accurate timelines, analyzed information, took notes, developed a museum brochure, wrote and edited speeches, and memorized and recited their speeches to all of the museum attendees.



We are so proud of their presentations and performances!

In science, we studied volcanoes, volcano patterns, types of volcanoes, lava, rock, and erosion. We conducted many experiments and even built LEGO volcanoes to represent cone and shield volcanoes!

Math has kept us super busy this month! We investigated and identified factors, generated multiples, and identified prime and composite numbers. We are gearing up for learning about angles, lines, rays, segments, and using protractors to measure angles.



We now have a much better understanding of How Our Government Works. The class is able to identify the roles of each of the three branches of government: the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

**BETTER TOGETHER!**

They engaged in healthy debates regarding taxes, local government, state, and federal government. Their bulletin board design for spring features handcrafted spring critters: flowers, plants, animals, as well as their SPRING acrostic poems. **FOURTH GRADE FLUTTERS INTO SPRING** is the theme and showcases their amazing and creative talents.



### **Fifth Grade**

Even with Spring Break taking up the end 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 the student council, chess club, dance club, and on to the safety patrol, and the upcoming spring play and band concert, everyone has gotten involved.

We've just 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. For most of the year, our class has been listening to short stories from 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 clever humor the author injects into both stories.

In writing, students have finished up their science fiction stories and have been taking on a number of short assignments. We wrote short stories from the wonderfully open-ended prompt, "A story about a magician whose act goes horribly wrong..." And as we move on to testing, we will revisit the keys of writing to inform and to persuade.

In science, the topic of the month was Water! We looked at the properties of water, how it moves around the planet in the water cycle, and explored why it rains a lot in some areas and not so much in other places. To end the unit, students researched one or two "in between" stages of the water cycle and created an infographic that uses text, images, and symbols to teach others just what it is. We learned how elements like groundwater, evapotranspiration (*it's a real thing!*), volcanic vents, and fog and dew impact the water cycle and shape the planet we live on.

And as for math class, we took on a lot in April. Ending our unit on operations with decimals (with division, no less!), we moved into work on the coordinate plane and seeing how we can use it to plot and identify patterns. As we move into May, we will take up our final few major topics of the year: sorting quadrilaterals, identifying triangles, and using and converting metric units.

The fifth-grade class wishes everyone a fantastic month of May!

### **Sixth Grade**

April has really flown by! Prior to spring break, we completed 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 a number of important life lessons for our time. We then began our poetry unit, and will begin our new novel as we head into May.



Sixth graders discuss civics issues.

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 a lot of great discussion in the classroom about human rights and what our Founding Fathers intended for our government.

In math, we are continuing to hone our algebra skills and are working on statistics and data displays. Next week we will be doing some review of 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 continue to work on a unit on the universe and the geologic time scale.

In other news, we are beginning to prepare 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 28, as well as a visit to CPS itself on June 3. We will also be working on our yearbook pages -- please don't forget to send pictures of your child for them to work with.

Visit our district website

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