



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

November 2021

Mr. Arcurio's Corner

It is now the time of year when we all start to dress a little warmer, enjoy the fall colors, and start to gear up for the holiday season. Another rite of autumn is school conferences. This is without a doubt one of the most powerful ways that you can continue to forge the home-school connection for your children. It gives you and your teachers an opportunity to discuss your child's progress. It is another opportunity for you to express your hopes and dreams for your child. I would like to offer a few pointers regarding conferences from the National Education Association Website. Open lines of communication are one of the ways that we can work toward **all children learning optimally**.

Before you go to the school, write notes to yourself about:

- things about your child's life at home, personality, problems, habits, and hobbies you feel it's important for the teacher to know
- your concerns about the school's programs or policies
- questions about your child's progress
- how you and the school can work together to help your child

Some good questions to ask are these:

- Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Why?
- How well does my child get along with others?
- What are my child's best and worst subjects?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- Have you noticed any sudden changes in the way my child acts? For example, have you noticed any squinting, tiredness, or moodiness that might be a sign of physical or other problems?
- What kinds of assessments are being done? What do the tests tell about my child's progress?

- How does my child handle taking tests?

These are simply suggestions to get you thinking. This is your conference, and there is a limited timeframe, make the most of it!

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio
Lead Learner/Superintendent



Important Dates

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| Nov 1-3 | Early Dismissal Days - Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| Nov 2 | Election Day |
| Nov 4-5 | School Closed -NJEA Teacher Convention |
| Nov 8 | PTA Meeting 6:30pm |
| Nov 11 | BOE Meeting 6:30pm |
| Nov 11 | Veterans Day |
| Nov 12 | Picture Retakes |
| Nov 16 | PTA Pizza Lunch |
| Nov 24 | Early Dismissal |
| Nov 25-26 | School Closed - Thanksgiving |
| Nov 30 | PTA Pizza Lunch |
| Dec 3 | End of 1st Trimester |
| Dec 10 | Reports Cards |

Office Items

Aftercare

Just a reminder that Lebanon Borough School offers onsite **Aftercare** through the YMCA. If you are interested in the program please visit the registration website at [YMCA Before/After Care Registration](#)



Health Office...

- *Bully-Free Zone:* October has been a busy month. The students celebrated Respect Week, Anti-violence Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week (RRW). During the Week of Respect and RRW, the staff and students showed their school spirit. The students enjoyed the Upstander Assembly. During the assembly, Avery Borzelli (6th grade) was able to demonstrate to the student body how to use the Stop-Walk-Talk program. Avery did a fantastic job! LBS stood united against bullying, violence, and drugs. For the months of November and December, our character trait is Caring. Our focus as a school community towards one another will be; kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness, and helping people in need.
- *Nurse's News:* Parents, thank you for your diligence in screening your children before school and keeping them home when ill. Also, please keep your child home if they or anyone in your household is being tested for COVID-19 (even if they are asymptomatic). All your efforts are making a difference in keeping our school a safer place to be.
 - Please review the symptoms to be screened;
 - At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR
 - At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.
- *Annual Health Screening:* Health screenings have started. All students will have their height, weight, and blood pressure taken. Depending on their grade, vision and hearing screenings will be done as well. You will only be notified if your child needs further evaluation.

Safety Patroller of the Month

September: Avery Borzelli

Avery has shown great leadership qualities throughout the month of September. She arrives on time, helps out when needed, and is always ready to take charge. I am so proud of her ongoing efforts. Congratulations!



October: Logan Kepp

Logan has shown great leadership qualities throughout the month of October. He is a conscientious Safety Patroller. He is respectful and kind to all LBS students and staff. I am so proud of his continuous efforts. Congratulations!



Art

Know that your paint-covered artists are not just making a mess of their clothes, but they are having fun and adding many skills to their "toolkits" while in art. Most grades have finished a project at this point as well. Finished works can be found on the [Lebanon Borough Artsonia](#) page. Please check it out!



Many of the projects focused on Autumn in some way are essential skills. Kindergarten finished their landscape collages, and first grade finished their apple paintings. Both

Kindergarten and First Grade made monoprinted spiderwebs with 3-D spiders that are finished just in time for Halloween. Second graders loved accepting color challenges as they painted their Kandinsky-inspired Trees. Third graders only have to add the finishing touches to their paper sculptures. Both of these projects have challenged the students, but it is also showing them how capable they are when they stick to it! Second and Third grade are both making a Fall-themed project that started with



printing real leaves. So messy, but so fun! Abstract Expressionism has kept the students in fourth grade engaged and excited all month. Their huge works are coming along nicely and will be worth all the hard work. The Fifth Graders' flagbooks are a sculptural success. When you enter the building for conferences, I hope you'll take notice of them in the showcase. The Sixth Graders made a collaborative zentangle sculpture one day and also have built ceramic vessels. The next steps are to glaze their pottery. Older grades, including fourth, fifth, and sixth, will be monoprinting in

the upcoming month. With only a few Fridays in session during November, they'll have to make the most of their art time.

We've added color-mixing, collage, sculpture techniques, monoprinting, and mark-making to our toolkits this month. There is still so much more to explore. I hope when you talk with your children, you can reiterate that artists practice methods over and over and that every mistake helps us grow stronger. So much of the FUN of art is *discovering how* to get the final result, not the final result itself.

Enrichment, A.T., BSI

October has flown by! In Enrichment, students worked on STEM challenges this month. Younger grades created houses for the three little pigs based on criteria and limited supplies. Older grades worked on Marble Challenges. We have begun coding this last week and are going to explore new skills with coding in November. We are also participating in Digital Citizenship activities.

In Media, students are getting reacquainted with the library! There were scavenger hunts happening in the library that helped students learn on the spot about the organization of the library and how to find things. We had a lot of fun and quite a lot of giggles. Students 1-6 are beginning to check out books! Students in Kindergarten also just checked out books that will be brought back to the classroom rather than home just yet. In November we will be using the resources in the library and online to conduct research and report!



Music

This month, the entire school began rehearsing songs for our virtual winter concert. Our concert will feature a performance by our intermediate band, a choral arrangement for the full school, and few additional songs combining specific grade levels. In our choral unit, we are especially working on our harmony singing in the form of rounds and partner songs. It has been wonderful seeing students step up to lead their groups when we split into two parts. Next month, we will work on fine-tuning our performances by working on our pitch accuracy, tone quality, dynamics, and more. In addition to our rehearsals, we have been learning about mood through some Halloween music. We have been experimenting with dynamics, tone, tempo, and more to create a mood to match the composer's intention. We also began using our personal instrument kits to accompany ourselves in the lower grades. These kits include a variety of



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homemade unpitched percussion instruments. The students are having so much fun creating music with these kits and with their body percussion!

The Beginner Band is off to a fantastic start after their first month of lessons on their brand new instruments! Brass and woodwind players have been focusing on their embouchure and have successfully been able to read and play their first few notes! This has been a great accomplishment and they are all very proud! We are currently focusing on our intonation and tone in order to perfect these pitches. Percussionists have been focusing on reading rhythms, sticking, coordination, and keeping a steady beat as a group. The Intermediate Band has been working on their concert repertoire and has already been able to play through their first piece! Now we are working on musicality and intonation throughout the piece and are learning to follow a conductor. Next month, we will be introducing a more challenging song and will be focusing on dynamics and balance between the instrument groups. They can't wait to share their performance during our virtual concert this December.

Physical Education/Health

This October in PE Pre-K and Kindergarten continued on to improve their motor skills and fitness levels. They maneuvered around obstacle courses that reinforced their leaping, hopping, running, and crawling skills. We also experimented with relay-style races, where they waited for friends in their group to return before starting. They also played the game "Helicopter." This was great fun as the kids practiced jumping over a jump rope as I spun it in a circular motion low to the ground.

Timing the rope was key and everyone had a blast watching me get dizzy. 1st-6th also practiced motor skills, ran relays over obstacle courses, and worked on jump ropes skills. Students worked on the cues needed to swing their arms properly and hop/jump with two feet continuously. Students practiced tandem turning of the jump rope by turning simultaneously with a partner and a third friend jumping rope. "Helicopter" was also played and all students had the chance to spin the rope in a circle. This really helped with timing the rope and executing a proper two jump hop over the rope. We have some impressive jump ropers at LBS! In health, all classes focused on bullying, anti-bullying, personal safety, and our monthly pillar character trait, respect. It is also Breast Cancer Awareness month and National Pizza appreciation month. We watched videos on the subjects, worked on workbooks, and discussed the effects of bullying, circumstances where peer pressure may come into play, and methods to handle bullying and speaking up. The 6th graders created anti-bullying posters that will hang in the hallway leading to the gym for their schoolmates to see and use as inspiration. In November we will start our throwing and catching skills during PE. Everyone will participate in under-hand throwing games like bowling and cornhole. Other games will also be played to increase focus on accuracy to help with catching and hitting targets. Health will concentrate on nutrition and the importance of eating healthy foods.



Spanish

¡Feliz octubre! Kindergarten students have continued practicing their colors, months, and numbers. They have started demonstrating correct responses to directions in Spanish, and can recognize 'Buenos días, buenas tardes, buenas noches, and adiós.'



Grades 1-2 have been learning school vocabulary items that they might bring in a 'mochila' (backpack). We have been playing games to help recognize each picture along with the word in Spanish.

Grades 3-4 have been discussing their favorite colors and frutas, and our poll showed that we all have very varied tastes in fruit. Grades 5-6 have been busy making predictions about our newest music video, Billy Y Las Botas. What could our friend Billy the Scarf be up to next?

All grades have been learning about Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15) and origins and celebrations of Latino heritage. Grades 5 and 6 are working on a project to create talaveras (Spanish tiles, example below) and learn the history and creation of these beautiful pieces of art.



Preschool

AM: This month in preschool we have been learning about wheels. We looked at all the things in our room that have wheels (cars, shopping cart, wagon, pizza cutter, rolling pin). We talked about the different sizes of wheels and how they help us complete a task. We learned letters C, O, A, D and M, we also learned about a circle and square. We worked on our counting and learned some fire safety and enjoyed Halloween. We joined Kindergarten for some Wingman-led activities by the older students. Next month we will learn about color mixing, Thanksgiving, and start our building unit. We will continue to learn about letters, shapes and numbers.



PM: This month we learned about apples, fire safety, pumpkins and Halloween. We carved a pumpkin, practiced stop/drop/roll for fire safety. We have learned the letters C, O, A, D, and M. We looked at how the life cycle of the apple and pumpkin are similar. We have been learning and practicing writing in our journals and sorting pictures based on their beginning sounds. We all enjoyed Halloween. Next month we will learn about color mixing, thanksgiving, pets, farms, and dinosaurs. We will continue to learn letters and letter sounds, numbers, and much more.



Kindergarten



Early this month we released our monarch butterfly so that she could begin her migration south. The students seemed to really enjoy raising the butterfly. Currently, in science, we are studying plants and animals. The students are learning what living things need to survive. They planted a radish plant and have been observing and caring for it daily. Next, we will be learning about the weather. This will include storms and weather conditions. In reading, we are learning about realistic fiction and informational text. We have been reading stories from these genres. We are learning letter sounds and we are beginning to



blend those sounds into words. The students have been enjoying reading their decodable stories. We are also discovering what things are nouns. In writer's workshop, the students were very excited to become authors of their first mini-book! They chose a topic and they are creating their books using phonetic spelling. They are doing an excellent job! We will be creating another mini-book in the next month as well. In our next reading unit, we will be reading fiction stories and persuasive text. We will also continue to learn new sight words weekly.

In math, we completed our module on comparing numbers. We are currently working on sorting and classifying objects. We are working in small groups to complete math center activities on our individual levels. Next, we will be working on beginning addition and subtraction strategies.



This month we celebrated a week of respect. During that week the class listened to a story called: How Full Is Your Bucket? They learned to think about other people's feelings. We discussed that if you are kind it makes both you and others happy. Then the class drew pictures to show ways that they can fill each other's buckets. This week is Red Ribbon Week, so we are discussing the importance of being drug-free. The students have been creating a red ribbon book. They are drawing and coloring pictures to show healthy choices. We have also been reading many Halloween stories, making projects, and writing a Halloween sentence using a picture prompt.



First Grade

The first graders have become awesome scientists! In Science, we are almost done with our unit on The Spinning Sky. The students learned about the seasonal and daily changes that happen in the sky, shadows, and how the sun and North Star can help us if we're lost. We've also learned about the Pumpkin Life Cycle and we even got to explore the guts of a pumpkin! Later,



we will begin our new Social Studies unit called Families Today and Long Ago, where we will explore the differences and similarities of life long ago vs. today.

In Reading, we've enjoyed reading some amazing books like Pumpkin Jack, Stellaluna, and Leonardo the Terrible Monster. These stories relate to our new reading program as we explore realistic fiction, fiction, and nonfiction texts. We've learned that good readers make predictions, are able to retell the story, and visualize what's happening in the story. In November, we will finish Unit 1 of the MyView Literacy program and jump into unit 2 where we will continue to read informational texts and use nonfiction text features like headings and captions to learn new information. In Spelling, we're still reviewing short vowels, but will soon dive into compound words, words with double consonants, and initial blends. Later, we will study final blends and multisyllabic words with blends.



In math, the students are learning new strategies on how to add and subtract. We've learned how to draw pictures that match story problems, use a number line, and use cubes to add and subtract. As we move on to Module 3, the students will learn how to add three numbers and determine if equations are equal or not equal.



Check out first grade painting their pumpkins and exploring the guts of the pumpkin we carved during "Halloween Week"! Thanks and we hope everyone has a safe and Happy Halloween!

Second Grade

Happy October, second-grade families! We have done so many fun things this past month, and the second graders have worked so hard. In Reading and Writing, we are working on our final unit project to talk about the place in our community that we love most, and why they are important to us. We are working on stretching our sentences when we write to include lots of different details to help us be more descriptive writers! We are also in our Daily Five and Cafe routine that we are loving and working on all of the skills that help us become better readers.

In Science, we completed our unit of plant life cycles, and ended with a fun dissection of a pumpkin and got to look closely at its seeds and what they look like on the inside. We learned all about the different types of plants that we eat, and all of the things that they need to grow.

In Math, we finished our unit on different types of graphs and how they help us collect data to help us solve our word problems. We finished this unit by getting to make our own shape Frankenstein, and graph all of his "parts." We can't wait to see what new things we will learn in November!



Third Grade

The Crew embarked on their Personal Narrative writing journey last month, and it's been a wonderful time. Our stories included memories from our past and were filled with rich details that captured our audience's attention. We learned how to "Explode the Moment" and take our reader step by step into our



experience sharing our senses and feelings. In reading, we are coming to the end of our "Environments" unit. We learned about difficulties living in the desert and how a family shares a life in the swampland of Puerto Rico as environmentalists. We took a deeper look into nonfiction text features. We can spot these essential pieces to better understand the information in the text. We also learned all about traditional tales and myths and read a few



engaging tales from Nigeria and Puerto Rico. In math, we have learned more multiplication strategies, such as the distributive and the associative properties. We can decompose factors into their addends and break down difficult problems into smaller, more manageable parts. In science, we discovered mosquitoes are the most dangerous creature alive and we learned solutions to stop their breeding. We also learned how animals communicate in social groups. We observed different animals in their natural habitat and recorded our observations. We learned living in groups helps animals survive! In social studies, we just wrapped up our unit on citizenship. We know it's imperative to be a good citizen. We have freedoms and rights as

citizens and we should be a part of the common good as Americans. past week we have enjoyed many seasonal activities for Halloween look forward to Thanksgiving! We will be learning how to write argumentative essays and using our learning of community and environments to reach out and make a difference with letter writing.



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Fourth Grade

This month has flown by in 4th-grade! We have been so busy reading various nonfiction books in reading and identifying the text structure of the text. We learned that non-fiction writing can be presented in many different ways. The text structures we have discussed are descriptive, problem/solution, cause/effect, chronological order, and compare/contrast. In writing, we have been working on the elements of personal narrative and writing a “small moment” personal narrative story of our own. The children learned different ways to hook the reader- asking questions, onomatopoeia, and starting off with an action. The children really enjoyed creating a “hook” for their story. In November, we will be starting our first novel study, Mr. Popper’s Penguins. This is a fun novel about a man and his famous penguins.

The past month we have been learning about multiplicative and additive comparison problems in math. We are also working on using multiplication and division patterns to help solve large mental math. Our math facts are coming in handy right now. Next, we will be learning how to multiply and divide whole numbers by up to 4 digit numbers. In Social Studies we have been learning about the geography of our great state- New Jersey and how to read many different maps. The children used their map skills to create their own map of an imaginary island- Barefoot Island. New Jersey is unique because it has many different types of landforms- plains, mountains, hills, and beaches.



Fifth Grade

Fifth Graders have literally “Taken the Lead” this month by starting off each day making the morning announcements. They’ve done a great job keeping LBS informed and given everyone a cheery voice to hear first thing in the morning!

Together with their peers in sixth grade, our students were excited to introduce the Wingman program to classes throughout the school. After practicing with a small team, the students ran the show as they hosted fun team-building activities. It was a great experience and everyone is looking forward to November’s Wingman day.

In reading, fifth grade has explored a host of genres, from informational text, historical fiction, and collected biography. We’ve explored the meaning of roots that derive from ancient Greek, worked out the difference between dependent and independent clauses, and worked out the different senses that vocabulary words can take on. We will be beginning our first novel study in the coming weeks. In writing, we’ve been working on personal narratives and reading stories we can model ours after. From ‘The Field’ to ‘Fly Away Home’, the students have enjoyed revisiting many of these narratives to develop new ideas.

Math class has seen a lot of work with division -- from estimating to figuring out what to do with the remainder, the students have worked hard to master this important skill! We are moving on to modeling expressions and the order of operations.

In science, we’ve been studying biology and how living things are interconnected. We’ve (intentionally!) let fruit go bad to test what factors spur or deter the growth of mold. Students observed live worms to see what behaviors might help plants to grow. The class used balloons and a high-tech

scale yardstick/pencil scale to determine that air in fact weighs something and that its carbon dioxide is mostly what makes up plants! Finally, we're taking what we've discovered and applying to the Biospheres we designed in September, adding the key elements that can sustain a healthy ecosystem.

Sixth Grade

October has been a busy month! We have celebrated Red Ribbon Week,, School Violence Awareness Week, and the Week of Respect.

In language arts, we have continued our reading and comprehension activities with *My Side of the Mountain* while working on grammar via interactive notebooks. Next month we should return to a fantasy book, *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis.

In social studies, we finished up our studies on Ancient Latin America in which we learned about the Aztec, Maya, and Inca. Next week we will begin our exploration of Ancient Greece and will continue that into November. In science, we have been exploring genetic v. environment. In math, we finally finished our unit on Dividing fractions and are just beginning to work with decimals.

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

and follow us on Twitter at

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



BETTER TOGETHER!