



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

November, 2024

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

Fantastic Fall Conferences

As the days grow cooler, leaves change color, and we prepare for the upcoming holiday season, it's time for one of the most important autumn traditions: school conferences. Parent-teacher conferences are among the best ways to build and strengthen the home-school connection, allowing you to discuss your child's progress, celebrate achievements, and share your hopes and dreams. These conferences provide invaluable insights that help teachers support each child in a more personalized way.

Here are some helpful tips for making the most of your time with your child's teacher, adapted from the National Education Association. For more, feel free to explore additional resources at nea.org/parents.

Prepare Ahead

Before attending conferences, it can be helpful to jot down notes about:

- Your child's interests, strengths, habits, or any challenges you'd like the teacher to know about.
- Any questions about your child's progress or the school's programs and policies.
- Thoughts on how you and the school can partner to support your child's growth.

Questions to Ask

Here are some good conversation starters that can spark a deeper understanding of your child's school experience:

- How is my child progressing in different subjects? Are they grouped by ability?
- How well does my child interact with others?
- What are my child's strongest and most challenging subjects?
- Is my child fully engaging with their abilities in class?
- Does my child actively participate in discussions and activities?
- Have you noticed any recent changes in their behavior or mood, like squinting or fatigue?
- What kinds of assessments are being used, and how do they reflect my child's progress?
- How does my child seem to handle test-taking or other academic challenges?

Important Reminder

This Sunday, don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour as Daylight Saving Time ends. We'll enjoy brighter mornings and slightly darker evenings, marking the transition to winter. Let's take advantage of these remaining mild days before the winter chill settles in!

We look forward to seeing each of you at conferences and working together to make this year a fantastic one for our students. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership!

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.
Superintendent

Important Dates

Nov 1	PTA Pizza Lunch
Nov 3	Turn Clocks Back
Nov 4-6	Early Dismissal (12:45 pm) Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov 5	Election Day
Nov 6	PTA Spirit Wear Sale Ends
Nov 7-8	School Closed NJEA Convention
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 11	PTA Mtg - 6:30PM
Nov 12	BOE Mtg - 6:45pm
Nov 12-14	PTA Scholastic Book Fair
Nov 27	Early Dismissal (12:45pm)
Nov 29	Trimester Ends
Nov 28-29	School Closed - Thanksgiving
Dec 9	Report Cards Available in Portal 3PM

BETTER TOGETHER!

Donate to the PTA and Stay Informed

- 1. [LBS Event Calendar](#)
- 2. [Donation Drive Flyer](#)

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. During the week of respect and red ribbon week, the staff and students showed their school spirit. A big thank you to Mr. Pepe and the Student Council for all their help in preparing the Spirit-filled themes during Respect Week and Red Ribbon Week. We also enjoyed the assembly “Quest for Kindness” given by Mobile Ed Productions. The assembly consisted of exciting challenges involving all the students. During each challenge, the students learned practical tools for identifying emotions, managing stress, and solving problems. The students were able to discover the Key to Kindness, and the power kindness has in preventing bullying. For 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: School screenings have begun. All students' height, weight, blood pressure, vision, and hearing will be screened. The first graders will have their color vision checked and the 5th grade will have a scoliosis check in the Spring. You will only be notified if there is a problem or concern.



Safety Patrol

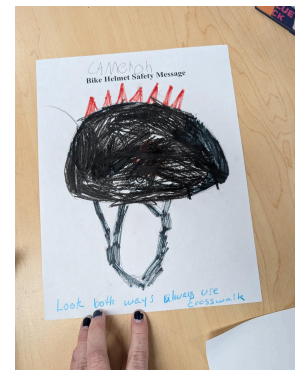
Congratulations, Jake Borzelli, Safety Patroller for the Month of October. Great job for going Above and Beyond this month. Your hard work, positive attitude, and helpfulness is always appreciated. You are certainly a role model for all LBS students. Keep up the good work!

Art

We are excited to share the wonderful creative projects our students have been working on! This month, our school-wide quilt has been completed, showcasing the collective effort and artistic talents of all grade levels. Our K-2 graders explored the enchanting world of watercolor techniques, combining their efforts with nature by making beautiful imprints using leaves. This hands-on experience not only enhanced their artistic skills but also fostered an appreciation for the beauty of the outdoors.

Meanwhile, the 3rd and 4th graders dived into the fascinating realm of paper textures. They designed unique landscapes on paper, carefully cutting and assembling their creations into stunning collages that reflect their imaginative perspectives of Rural, Suburban, and Urban areas.

Our 5th and 6th graders are having a blast with their graphic design project, creating vibrant candy shoes. The enthusiasm they have shown for this project is infectious, and it’s inspiring to see their creativity come to life.



In addition, we recently organized a K-4 assembly focused on road safety, where students created insightful artwork to promote awareness in our community.

Lastly, all grades are participating in a new drawing technique called "1 Minute Meditation." This exercise encourages mindfulness and quick sketching skills. Be sure to ask your child how this technique works and what they have learned!

We are proud of our students' artistic expressions and look forward to seeing their continued growth and creativity!



Enrichment/Media/Technology

Over the past month, all grade levels from K-6 have been discussing how to be good digital citizens. We've explored how to keep our technology safe and what information is appropriate to share online. If you're looking for ways to continue this conversation at home, I encourage you to visit Common Sense Media for great resources:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>.

Grades 3-6 have engaged in a Google platform game that allowed them to practice digital safety skills. They also reviewed basic Google Slides skills by creating digital animations of Halloween scenes, including formatting and animating clipart. Once the projects were completed, we shared them in slideshow mode to see the clipart become animated, similar to paper flipbooks.

PK-2 students enjoyed various Fall/Halloween books in the last two weeks of October. They created their own monsters, disguised pumpkins to avoid carving and 2nd-grade built pumpkin catapults! We will continue to explore creativity with different materials throughout the year.

Please save and send in any empty paper towel or toilet paper rolls, instead of throwing them out, it would be greatly appreciated. Throughout the year we use them for different STEAM projects.

TREPS students have been busy learning about how to price their items for their store and the 4 P's of promotion: product, place, price, and promotion! They have been working on slogans and digital posters to advertise their stores. The excitement is building for our marketplace on **December 12th at 5 pm-6:30**, and we can't wait to see you all there! Please spread the word to neighbors, family, and friends to support our students.



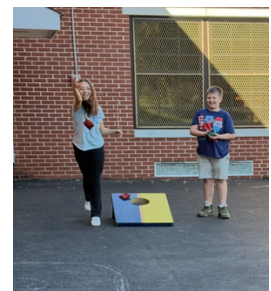
Music

In the month of October, we have focused on Halloween-themed songs as part of the concepts being taught. The students have had the opportunity to sing and dance to Halloween songs. Pre-K to second-grade students were able to use the boomwhackers instruments to play along to different Halloween songs. Fourth through sixth-grade students were able to participate in a Google Slides Halloween music poster contest. Their work is displayed on the Promethean Board Screen in the music room. We will begin rehearsing for the winter concert (December 19th) in the coming weeks. Happy Halloween!



Physical Education/Health

This October in PE all classes continued on to improve on their motor skills and fitness levels. They also participated in underhand throwing and catching games like bowling, cornhole and games that practiced the "Tick-Tock, Step, and Rock" cues taught to strengthen and enhance underhand throwing. In health, all classes worked on their Great Body Shop workbooks. The monthly focus was on



body systems and their importance. We also discussed our monthly pillar character trait, respect. In November we will build on our overhand throwing and catching skills and the cues that need to be practiced. Health will concentrate on nutrition and the importance of eating healthy foods.



Spanish

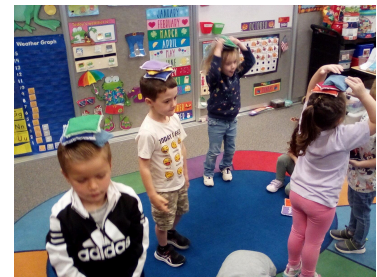
What an amazing month octubre has been! We are working hard and having fun in Spanish class! We have all learned about the holiday of Día de Los Muertos and the traditions of Mexico. Grades 5 and 6 have been watching documentaries and movies that show how people in Mexico and the US remember their loved ones who have passed away. Grades K-4 have been learning the different objects that are common to see during Día de Los Muertos, incorporating the four elements of fire, water, earth, and air into the ofrendas (offerings/altar). Our classes

are creating Diamond Art calaveras (decorative skulls) and creating papel picado (the beautiful cut paper decorative banners) commonly used during this holiday. Our kindergarten students are learning all about calendar vocabulary, including the months of the year, days of the week and numbers. We are strengthening our cultural knowledge of other people around the world!



Preschool

AM: This month in preschool we have been learning about apples, pumpkins, fire safety, farms, and Halloween. We all enjoyed Halloween and our class party. We have been practicing our pencil/crayon grip a lot in our handwriting books, we learned the letters L and F, practicing our counting, positional words, and Halloween crafts.



We had a visit from the firetruck and tasted apples to see which we liked the best. We pretended bean bags were apples to see how many we could balance on our heads while walking around the classroom. We also started to show and tell this month. Next month we will continue learning letters, start our tree study, learn about colors/color mixing, and Thanksgiving.



PM: This month in preschool we have been learning about apples, farms, pumpkins, fire safety, and Halloween. We all enjoyed Halloween and our class party. We have been practicing our counting, writing in our journals, positional words, halloween crafts, letters B, D, R, N, M. We tasted

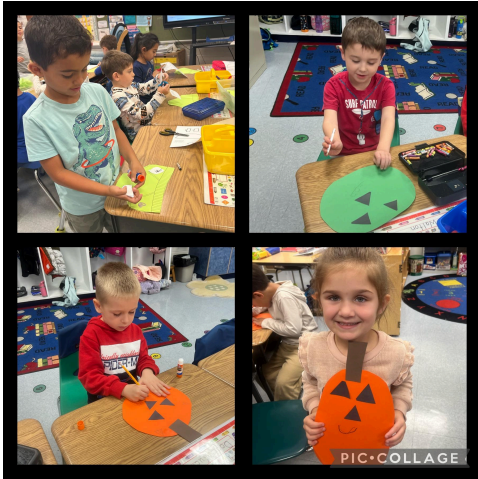


apples to see which we liked the best. During fire safety week we practiced stop-drop-roll and got to look at some real fire gear. We also started to show and tell this month. Next month we will continue learning letters, learn about colors/color mixing, nutrition, dinosaurs, and Thanksgiving.

Kindergarten

Early this month we released our last couple monarch butterflies, so they could begin her migration south. The students seemed to really enjoy raising the butterflies. Currently in science we are studying plants and animals. The students are learning what living things need to survive. We are learning about the parts of a pumpkin and how a pumpkin grows. Next, we will be learning about weather. This will include storms and weather conditions.

BETTER TOGETHER!



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 blending those sounds into words. The students have been enjoying reading their decodable stories. In writing, we have been writing lists and sentences in the writing center and some of us are starting to sound out words using phonetic spelling. They are doing an excellent job! In our next reading unit, we will be reading fiction stories and a persuasive text. We will also continue to learn new sight words weekly.

In math, we are working on comparing numbers. In our next module, we will be 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 variety of stories about kindness and being considerate of other people's feelings. We read stories about empathy and kindness. They learned to consider other people's feelings. This week is Red Ribbon Week, so we are discussing the importance of being drug and bully-free. The students have been creating a red ribbon book. We have been discussing healthy choices. We have also been reading many Halloween stories and making a variety of projects.



First Grade

The end of October has already come! As we leave the spooky season behind and head into the holidays, first grade is still having a blast. In math, we have moved on from addition and are finishing learning our subtraction strategies. In ELA, we've been learning about the world around us with informational texts galore. In phonics, we are learning how to break up two-syllable words. We've just recently finished up our unit on the moon and the stars in science. Soon, we will be learning all about animals! In social studies, we are learning about mindfulness and how practicing that can help us navigate the world and our emotions. What an outstanding October!

Second Grade



It's been a super month of learning in Second Grade! The students have so enjoyed reading mystery books! They recently completed a short book report using a specific strategy that we practiced for summarizing longer text. We also worked with a reading partner to read nonfiction texts, such as books about weather and ocean life. We then completed a "List Article" for sharing facts. In Science, we completed a unit on animal adaptations. We learned why animals make certain noises and why they live in certain areas; we even created our own bird houses based on the bird's needs. Now we're learning about seed dispersal. We created model seeds and watched as their structure informed their flight from their mother plant. In Social Studies we have mapped the world for continents and oceans, and now understand why we have

an Equator and a Prime Meridian. We learned all about cardinal directions, too. In math, we have been mastering our place value. We can now determine how many tens are in larger numbers. We know that each digit has a special value! We used math tools to model many numbers and have had fun working

together to write and model large numbers. Our “shared reading” this month has us focused on informational text and how we, *as good readers*, monitor our comprehension by asking ourselves questions and summarizing facts as we go. In writing, we also completed fall poems sharing seasonal joys. And of course, we’re all so excited for Halloween and look forward to more seasonal activities coming up next month!



Third Grade

Third grade is going smoothly. The class knows the routines of the day. They look forward to specific parts of their day. We have been learning all the ways to multiply (skip counting, repeated addition, and bar graphs). The students start their math day with a timed multiplication worksheet. They are moving to three's. They are so proud of themselves. Keep working at home with them on their multiplication facts. We are still reading about folktales. They are grasping what they need to look for when looking for text evidence. As you know they started vocabulary homework. We have our own spelling workbook to practice in school. The Pick 3! boxes should stay home so that they can be utilized every week. You should be so proud of their progress. It is exciting to start a study on the Presidential Election. It will be a generic study with an understanding of how the process works. We will come back to Science in a few weeks. I look forward to seeing everyone at parent-teacher conferences. Happy Fall!!

Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade is one busy class! In Math, we are using our multiplication and division knowledge to solve multiplicative comparison problems. We are working on using our “clue words” to determine what type of problem-solving strategies to use. Geography, adaptation, and immigration are the hot topics in our social studies lessons. We have begun the “Great Mail Race!” We answered a comprehensive questionnaire about our school community and New Jersey. We will send a copy of our answers to a fourth-grade classroom in a school in each of the 50 states. On our map of the United States, we will identify which state we receive a response from. The goal is to receive a response from each of the 50 states by June! This lesson tied in many aspects of the ELA and Social Studies curriculum.



We completed our biography unit with the publication of our BioPoems and self-portraits. These works of art will be on display outside of our classroom throughout the fall.

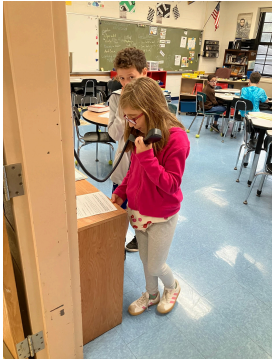


The students are thoroughly enjoying our new read-aloud, *Matilda*, by Roald Dahl. They are analyzing characters, identifying metaphors, similes, assonance, and alliteration throughout the book.

We enjoyed team building and working with the other classes during our Wingman activities. Our succulent container garden received an upgrade and new designs, and we thank the Elwells for

the generous donation of new terra cotta planters!

The class is looking forward to bringing their October book response characters to life on Thursday, as we create Character Pumpkins! Happy Halloween!



Fifth Grade

Fifth graders have been making an impact all around Lebanon Borough School this Fall. In our first Wingman activity, they brought fun challenges and activities to other grades and demonstrated how working together makes everyone more successful. Many students have been involved in clubs and activities: Student Council members have been running spirit weeks, Safety Patrollers are keeping everyone safe during arrivals, and some members of the running club have been hard at work training for a 5K race! The class has also been starting off the day strong by making morning announcements and leading the school in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In science, we have been continuing with our Web of Life unit. We've tackled questions like *What do plants eat?* *What happens to fallen leaves?* *And do worms actually eat dirt?* In the process, we've grown mold terrariums (with the help of the third-grade class) and watched our food decay. We've welcomed in a family of red meal worms to detect what characteristics make them ideal at

breaking down organic matter below our feet. And we've played *Big Fish!* which taught us just how many things go into making a pond a safe place for wildlife to thrive. It's been a thought-provoking unit, not to mention a little icky!



In math, the class has made tremendous progress on two-digit division, and is currently creating numerical expressions and evaluating the order of operations, or PEMDAS. Don't forget, addition and subtraction (and multiplication and division) are a "tie" as you move left to right! In November, we'll explore the concept of volume and move into the first of

many modules on working with fractions.

In language arts, we got prepared for the Halloween season by reading the terrifying, horrifying, and just plain scary novel *Bunnicula*. The novel tells the bone-chilling story of a regular family and their pets, who find a small bunny who sleeps during the day, and appears to be.... *turning vegetables white!* Told from the perspective of Harold, the family dog, this tale is a great way to describe how one set of events can be seen in such different ways by different characters, and the class has enjoyed trying to figure out what is really going on in the Monroe household. Try reading it yourself.... if you dare!



Sixth Grade

I cannot believe October is over already! It has been a busy month and has really flown by! We have book-ended the month with two spirit weeks: one for the Week of Respect and the other for Red Ribbon Week. It has made for some interesting outfits! In language arts we have begun *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* with an official sorting hat activity that set us into our various Hogwarts houses. We have a lot of fun with this: from our personal Platform 9 3/4 to creating our own wands to taking ownership of our Houses. Next month we will finish Harry Potter, but continue the fantasy genre with *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. In math, we have finished a full unit and are onto ratios and rates. In social studies, we are just finishing up our studies on Early River Civilizations in which we learned about Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and India. We will begin our exploration of

Mesoamerica in November. In science, we have finished exploring genetics vs. environment and are moving on to the interaction of organisms.

In addition to all that learning, we also began our Wingman activities, teaching the younger grades about leadership and standing up for each other. It has been a month of education, enjoyment, and energy!



Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org