



# THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

October 2021

## Mr. Arcurio's Corner

October is upon us! As the weather begins to cool and the leaves begin to turn, our school year is in full swing. Although we take for granted that a school day runs from 8:40 am to 3:00 pm, our children have been building back their stamina for full school days after over a year without them. We continue to redouble our efforts in working with Respect and Responsibility as the foundation of everything that we do. Please continue to reinforce these character themes with the children throughout the year as this consistent message provides stability for the entire school.

We have been working to bring back more normal this year. Aside from lunch and full school days, we have activated the safety patrol at arrival and dismissal, our Student Council is meeting and planning for the year, we have schedule assemblies for the children, Girls on the Run and other extracurricular activities are returning this year, our PTA and BOE are meeting in person, and we have been able to relax our masking requirements outdoors. We continue to be guided by state mandates and health guidance from the CDC and the Hunterdon County Department of Health and have been able to have a safe first month! Families and teachers are keys to ensuring that we stay healthy, remain open, and quarantine as little as possible. Please continue your efforts to screen your children and take appropriate precautions outside of school.

### Important Dates

Oct 4-8	NJ Week of Respect
Oct 4	PTA Meeting 6:30pm
Oct 5	BOE Meeting 6:30pm
Oct 11	School Closed - Teacher Inservice
Oct 12	Gr. 4 Start Strong Assessments ELA/Math
Oct 13 & 14	Gr. 6 Start Strong Assess ELA/Math/Sci
Oct 15	Gr. 5 Start Strong Assessments ELA/Math
Oct 29	Halloween Parade 9am

Each year the first full week in October is NJ Week of Respect. All schools in the state work to bring attention to the character trait of respect and combat bullying during this week. One of the ways that we do this each year is to designate theme days for each day of the week. A detailed flyer is in backpacks today but below are the themes that the Student Council came up with for each day next week.

- **Monday** - "LBS Shows Respect" - wear LBS gear or blue and gold to show we are united against bullying
- **Tuesday** - "BE A HERO and take a stand against bullying" dress like a (super)hero to take a stand and be a hero!
- **Wednesday** - "TEAM UP against bullying" - wear a favorite team shirt or jersey!
- **Thursday** - "GIVE PEACE A CHANCE and INCLUDE day" - wear tie-dye or rainbow clothing to inspire peace!
- **Friday** - "PUT BULLYING TO BED" - wear their favorite pajamas to school

These types of days provide us with an opportunity to be silly and unified as a school and help to truly show that we are Better Together!

Better Together,  
Bruce Arcurio - Lead Learner/Superintendent

**BETTER TOGETHER!**

## Aftercare

## State Testing

## Health Office...

- 
- 2021-2022
- # THIS IS YOUR YEAR TO ...
- be a role model
  - become something new
  - work hard
  - be a leader
  - be original
  - be unique
  - follow your dreams
  - be a friend
  - achieve your goals
  - explore opportunities
  - play a new sport
  - be brave
  - be creative
  - succeed
  - make a new friend
  - shine
  - be happy
  - be you

- **Handwashing:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T98gqC-yanU>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>
- **New Jersey Covid-19 Information Hub Website:** <https://covid19.nj.gov/>.
- Other sources of info include [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and/or [nj.gov/health/](https://nj.gov/health/).
- **Reporting an Absence:** Just a reminder, if your child is going to be absent, please fill out the Absence Notification form located on the home page of the school's website. For your convenience, here's the link; <http://www.lebanonschool.org/Report-An-Absence>. You may also call the absentee line at 908-236-2448 and press option 3. Absences should be reported by 8:30 am.

In September we began the first phase of implementing **“Wingman”**, a social and emotional development program that will promote trust-building, team bonding and camaraderie throughout the school. Wingman is student lead and features a program of experiential education activities that inspire empathy, courage, leadership, and connection. Using fun, purposeful activities to foster deeper conversations and stronger teams, the Wingman program leads to a more connected school community. During the week of September 13th, our 5th and 6th grade students received training on how to lead these activities as well as model the core values of the program which are:

- Beginning in October, our 5th and 6th grade student leaders will begin to implement and lead the program for the younger classes.

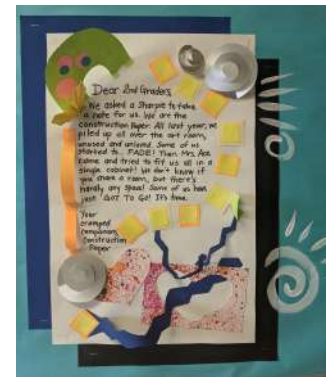
## Art

How happy the Art Room is now that it's filled with children again! September was filled with getting-to-know-you activities. After the students became familiar with rules and procedures, they jumped into making mini masterpieces in response to letters from the Art Room. The goal was for the children to get excited about making and having the opportunity to use materials they haven't used recently.



Each grade level has also started its first long term project. Kindergarteners started identifying elements of a landscape to prepare for making cut & torn landscape collages. First graders "met" Paul Cezanne and found inspiration to begin a still life painting of apples, just in time for Fall. Second graders are starting to explore color mixing in a style similar to Wassily Kandinsky. Third graders impressed Mrs. Ace when they made a long list of materials that can be used for sculpture and then started their own construction paper sculptures. Fourth graders were encouraged to use their imaginations

when "attending" a make-believe Abstract Expressionist party. The weeks that follow will be filled with expressive mark-making and composing. Fifth grade discovered books as an art form and are ready to make progress on their painted pages in the following weeks. The sixth graders were so patient to watch a detailed demonstration of their ceramic vessel assignment. They are ready and excited to get their hands on their clay and start hand-building. The major take-away from our first month together is that students are extremely observant and eager to make. Discussions during art are proving that the students are creative thinkers and that back-to-basics lessons will be very beneficial. Students can expect to gain a deeper understanding of how to use elements of art such as line, shape, value, and color in rendering traditional subject matter like landscapes, still lives, and portraits. But first we'll make art for art's sake.



## Enrichment, A.T., BSI

September is over?!? Well, Enrichment/Media/Technology classes are now in full swing. Starting with our preschoolers (pictured), they have learned the word "engineers" and worked through a difficult challenge with perseverance and a positive attitude. They built towers from apples and toothpicks! The "ah-ha"s that were heard throughout were so reinforcing of their hard work and how they turned those brains on! Role models for us all!

All grades are participating in STEM challenges, working with new platforms and their features for responding to text and learning how to navigate new websites. The older students were challenged to move 10 marbles from one cup to another with limited supplies and without touching the cups. The thought processes, the changing of plans based on need, the collaboration and the teamwork are what are important here as we build the foundation for STEM and Enrichment this year. Here is a work in progress photo of our Library wall, where each student will be represented with their "Which Wildcat are You?" project. Pretty cool, right? As we move into October, I am excited about the STEM challenges planned, the media explorations ready and the use of new technology to enhance all our learning!







## Music

It is so wonderful to hear everyone singing together in music class now that we are back in the classroom! The upper grades have been working on various forms of harmony singing including rounds and partner songs. We also began this year with an emphasis on music vocabulary across all grades. This helps us to have wonderful conversations about music when evaluating, critiquing, and interpreting music. The lower grades have also been working on their singing voices and determining the difference between high and low pitches. We have been using various action songs to strengthen our understanding of beat and rhythm as well. Next month, we will be working on reading rhythms and will begin learning our December concert repertoire.

The band members are so excited to play together! We have so many students in the band program this year! Many 5th and 6th graders are continuing their instruments from last year and several have decided to start playing a new instrument. Plus, we have a large beginning 4th-grade band as well. Beginners are learning to assemble their instruments, hold them, and create a sound. We will be learning our first few pitches over the coming weeks and will be working on reading these pitches and using them in a variety of skill-building songs. The upper grades began by reviewing scales and reading in order to prepare for our first full-band song. We especially enjoyed performing duets together and hearing the beautiful harmonies!

## Physical Education/Health



We are back for the start of our 2021-22 school year and I am so happy that we are able to have a full day of in-class learning. It's always exciting to get to meet with all of the kids and hear about their summer break and getting to know all the students a little more each day. This month in PE 1st-6th



grade we started working on building fitness levels, playing team building games. We will continue team building lessons throughout the year in all grades as this is something very important to students of any age. Pre-K & Kindergarten have and will continue to practice locomotor skills such as skipping, galloping, running and more to build proficiency and fitness levels. We are working on personal space games and awareness as well we have also begun testing our balancing skills.. We will be outside as much as possible for PE so please make sure your child dresses appropriately each day and has an adequate amount of water. In Health K-6th grade will focus on personal Hygiene, citizenship and it is also National Yoga and Childhood obesity month. We have begun Hygiene workbooks, had some fun performing yoga poses and watching videos on what citizenship entails. October is National Bullying Prevention month so we will focus on how to deal with bullying appropriately. Our monthly character trait is respect so that will fit perfectly with our anti-bullying activities and projects. Physical education will continue building on our fitness levels and team building skills and more. I look forward to building positive memories and experiences with your children.



## Spanish

¡Feliz septiembre! Feelings of otoño (autumn) are in the air, and the beautiful fall weather has us cantando y bailando! (singing and dancing!)

Kindergarten students have begun their year in Spanish by learning colors, months, and numbers. They have also learned how to greet each other, and ask someone their name.

Grades 1-6 have been practicing their number vocabulary and learning fruit vocabulary through a very fun song called La Canción de Las Frutas. Click here to check it out!

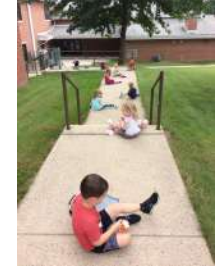
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/oNU67X3dGHI>



### **Preschool**

This month preschool has been learning the rules and routines in the classroom and school. We have learned emotions and listed what makes us feel these emotions and how we can deal with these emotions while in school. We completed our assessments so we know what we have mastered and what we need to work on. We had a successful back to school night! We have also been earning a

lot of tickets! We have learned about fall! In October we will continue our beginning the school year unit, learn about fire safety, pumpkins, Halloween, apples and farms. We are all excited for Halloween and pumpkins.



### **Kindergarten**

It has been an exciting first month of school in kindergarten! The students are settling into our classroom routines. We have read a variety of books and completed

projects related to the topics of kindness, friendship and our classroom community. Some of the books that we have read are: The Kissing Hand, Our Class is a Family and A Letter From Your Teacher. I am enjoying our small intimate classroom community.



In science, the kindergarten class has raised a Monarch Butterfly this month. It emerged from the chrysalis this week, which was very exciting! They seemed to really enjoy observing it through all of the stages. We drew pictures and created a butterfly observation mini book. They have also created a project to show the stages of the life cycle and a butterfly mobile. Next, we will begin learning about what

animals and plants need.

In reading, the kindergarten class has already learned our first six sight words. We are working on a letter sound a week through our phonics program, as well as a sound or two a week with our reading program. The students are progressing well and beginning to blend three letter words in our decodable readers. We work to build our vocabulary, comprehension strategies and writing skills each day and we will continue to build on these skills throughout the school year.



The students are completing many hands-on activities in our learning centers. This week we are exploring a fall sensory bin and matching pictures to their beginning letter sounds and we are also using play dough as a tactile tool to practice letter formation. The students are meeting with me, one-on-one or with a partner, during centers to work on reading, writing and math skills. In math we have been representing numbers 1-5 with objects and with a written numeral. We recently began creating a number book and we have been using a variety of hands-on materials to help us learn our math. We will begin matching and counting numbers to 5 and classifying, sorting and counting objects in the next few weeks. We have been learning all about the season of fall. Last week was apple week. We did many fun activities to learn more about apples. We looked at

apples and learned the parts of an apple. Then we made star prints from the core. We did apple math and counted seeds and read the story: Ten Apples Up on Top. We sang songs and read books about apples



and talked about how apples connect to our five senses. Thank you for all your support getting this year off to a great start!

### **First Grade**

We're very excited to be back in school! First grade is doing an awesome job making the transition to full-day school, and learning new routines and procedures! During the first weeks of school, we've learned about our school and classroom rules, and in Social Studies we've reviewed what it means to be a good citizen. In Science, we started our unit on "The Spinning Sky". The students have enjoyed learning about the sun and its daily patterns in the sky. We've also conducted some shadow experiments; the students have discovered that a shadow can move even when an object is not moving. Later, we will observe and discuss changes in seasons during Science time.



In Reading, we've learned that realistic fiction books are stories that could happen in real life. We've read two stories from our new Reading Series: *The Blackout* and *Henry On Wheels*. With these stories, we're learning how to make predictions, ask questions, identify the characters and setting, and retell the stories in our own words. As a reminder, your child's weekly story will be ripped out of their reading books and sent home to practice. In the weeks to come, the students will be using Reader's Workshop to independently practice the reading strategies we've been learning. In spelling, we are reviewing our short vowel sounds, and the students will be taking home their spelling journals beginning next week. In Math, we're learning how to "count on", "add 10 plus more", "make a 10", and "use doubles" to help us add. The students have their own "math tool kits" which include hands-on learning tools like cubes, counters, and ten frames to help make concepts concrete. Additionally, we are practicing our addition facts on Freckle.com. In the weeks to come, we will learn how to use objects and drawings to help us subtract, and use strategies like "counting back", and "counting on to subtract".

We are super excited to be back in school and can't wait to learn so many new things!

### **Second Grade**

We are officially one month into the 2020-2021 school year, and we couldn't be happier to be back! Our class is settling nicely into routine and we are already learning so many new things! This month, we have read both realistic fiction and informational text stories during Reading, and we have started to do Daily Five centers every day. We are really loving Daily Five and getting to know how the program works! In Math, we are working on separating objects into two equal groups, and learning about even and odd numbers. We have been able to work together during Math centers as well, helping each other better understand our lesson of the day. We completed our first unit in Social Studies and learned all about the United States government, as well as state and local governments. We are beginning our life cycles of a plant unit in Science, and we are so excited to do some experimenting in class. Second grade is off to a great start, I can't wait to see where this year will take us!





### **Third Grade**

The New Corradi Crew is in full stride this fall! In math we are learning all about multiplication and the strategies to solve problems using our knowledge of products and equal groups. We've been studying our times tables and have been having great success with our motivational Multiplication Racetrack, earning "cars" along the way. In science we have studied how paleontologists understand



prehistoric times based on the clues that animals left behind. Now we know why the word dinosaur means terrifying lizard! In reading we have embarked on the Daily 5 reading framework whereby reading and writing and listening to reading are an everyday learning activity. We've read two wonderful cultural tales with similar plots. We've focused on asking lots of questions before, during and after reading. We are identifying key story elements, such as setting and understanding themes in traditional tales. In writing we are well into our first personal narrative which is based on a memory. We are learning to "explode the moment" so we can show our reader the moment -by-moment details of our story. We also learned about similes

and wrote a personal simile poem, similar to the book Quick as a Cricket. In social studies we have focused on citizenship as a character trait and as honorable actions of strong communities and community members. We've also learned about the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Next month we look forward to mastering more of our times tables through the number six and continuing to learn about animal traits and heredity. We will also begin our government studies which will focus on the three distinct branches of government.

### **Fourth Grade**

The 4th grade hive is all a buzz...the past few weeks, and have been adjusting to the full day, and the rules/procedures that go along with being fourth graders. One thing we will be working on this year is becoming more independent and responsible in our own learning.

In ELA, we have been working on the skills of identifying different types of non-fiction writing-autobiography, biography, informational text, etc. When we are reading non-fiction we are able to answer questions about the story while citing evidence from the text. We have also begun to restate the question in our answer, which is part one of writing an effective response-**Restate Answer Cite Explain-RACE** response.

We have been listening to Matilda as a class each day and realizing that we do not want Ms. Trunchbull as our headmaster. This story is great for identifying text features, such as: character traits, problem, solution, and main idea.

In math, we have completed our module 1 on place value. We have started our module 2 on addition and subtraction with numbers up to 1,000,000. Each day we practice our quick multiplication facts to help us when we begin multiplying and dividing with larger numbers.

Looking ahead, we will be starting multiplication and division.

In science, we have been learning about rocks. We learned that volcanoes can be found in, The Ring of Fire, which outlines the coasts along the Pacific Ocean. During this unit we also discussed and tried to invent something to prevent a landslide from happening in a beach town. The engineers in 4th grade had amazing ideas on how to protect their houses. We will be learning about maps and geography of New Jersey in social studies for our next unit.



## Fifth Grade

Grade 5 is off to a terrific start to the 2021-22 school year! The students in our class are often eager to share their ideas and talk through challenging questions. That's why everyone was so excited to take part in Wingman!

For two days, Wingman leaders Mark and Patty guided us through games, puzzles, and team building challenges. Whether finding ways to communicate effectively (without speaking!) or passing around a coffee can (sometimes without looking...and using only their feet!), students took the lead. By listening to and synthesizing everyone's ideas, the class developed strategies that helped us accomplish task after task in record time. The program challenged everyone to "grow and change" by stretching outside of our comfort zones. In the coming weeks, the students are excited to share the Wingman program with others at LBS!



Our fifth grade scientists began the year by taking a look at 'Biosphere 2', a 1990s experiment in Arizona that sought to replicate our planet's ecosystem, with an eye towards the colonization of outer space. Living under a dome, nothing (humans included) could come in or out for two years. The actual experiment was somewhat underwhelming, so we're trying to see if we can do better! Each student selected 20 living things to place in their biosphere. As we discover more about food chains, ecosystems, and the processes that support life on Earth, we will go back

and revisit the organisms essential to make the plans a success.

In Math class, we've begun the year by exploring place value and revisiting multiplication by one-, two-, and three- digit numbers. Additionally, many students were introduced to exponents for the first time. While some minor mistakes still pop up (especially when dealing with a lot of big numbers!) the class has worked hard to master the fundamentals. A big part of this success comes from their daily work with 'Otter Creek', a timed multiplication drill. The ability to recall facts quickly is key and will help a lot as we explore division in the coming chapters.

In Language Arts, we've been looking at examples of personal narratives as students prepare to write about a moment or experience that is both meaningful to them and entertaining to their audience. The theme for our first reading unit is 'Journeys', beginning with a look at the challenges and promise of immigrating to America.

## Sixth Grade

Welcome to 6th grade! We have begun our reading journey with *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* -- always a lot of fun! One the first day of school each 6th grader received their acceptance letter to Hogwarts and a ticket to the Hogwarts Express via Platform 9 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. We entered through the appropriate brick column on the first day to discuss our summer book. We have created our own wands and wand stories. Later this week we will be writing an informational piece about Quidditch (wizard sport, in case you didn't



know). We will finish up this book next month and make a 180° turn and read the story, *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead Moore.

In social studies, we are learning about ancient Latin American civilizations: the Maya, the Aztec and the Inca. We have been working on a timeline comparing the three civilizations, and next month we will learn about the similarities in their endings with the arrival of the Spanish Conquistadors.





We also spent two days learning to be Wingmen. The Wingman project uses games and activities to teach cooperation and communication. Our 6th graders (along with the 5th graders) learned to be leaders in this program and next month will begin visiting the younger grade classrooms to teach them what they have learned. This program continues throughout the year and provides great leadership opportunities for our kids!

### **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](http://www.lebanonschool.org)**

and follow us on Twitter at

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

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