



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

October 2023

Dr. 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. I'd like to thank everyone who attended our Back to School Night in September. It is a key event in starting the conversation between home and school as we work together to educate our children. 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.

Be sure to keep in touch with your child's teacher throughout the year to continue the ongoing conversation regarding progress. The [Realtime Parent Portal](#) is another way to stay connected and keep on top of attendance and demographic information in grades preschool through 3; as well as ongoing academic performance in grades 4-6. This is also the place where you will go to access report cards at the end of each trimester. Be sure to log in to the portal and complete any forms required, so that we have the most up to date information. If you have questions or have forgotten your login information, contact me at barcurio@lebanonschool.org and I will be happy to resend that information.

Important Dates	
Oct 2-6	Week of Respect
Oct 2	PTA Meeting 6:30pm
Oct 3	BOE Meeting
Oct 9	School Closed for Children/ Full Day Inservice
Oct 11	School Picture Day
Oct 16-20	School Violence Awareness Week
Oct 18	Walking School Bus
Oct 23-27	Red Ribbon Week
Oct 31	Halloween Parade 9am
Nov 2	BOE Mtg
Nov 6-8	Early Dismissal (12:45 pm) Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov 9-10	School Closed NJEA Convention

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 for each day next week.

- **Monday** - "Respect Those Around You" - Wear Blue
- **Tuesday** - "Respect Your Teammate" - Wear Your Favorite Team
- **Wednesday** - "Respect the Environment" - Wear Green
- **Thursday** - "Respect Yourself" - Wear Your Favorite Outfit
- **Friday** - "Respect Your Community" - Wear Your School Colors or LBS Gear

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 Ed.D.
Superintendent

BETTER TOGETHER!

Office Items

State Testing - Parent Notification

The state of New Jersey requires that parents are notified by October 1st about any state testing that will be administered by the district during the school year. This was also sent out on September 15th in the Friday email. [See Schedule Here](#)

Substitutes (Teacher, Paraprofessional, and Custodial)

- We are in need of substitutes for this school year. If you or someone you know are interested please contact Tricia Duell at tduell@lebanonschool.org.

Complete Forms in the Parent Portal

- Please be sure that you have access to the Realtime Parent Portal. This will give you access to information such as demographics, attendance, and report cards. In grades 4-6, it also affords access to student grades and assignments.
- **The forms and the option to update emergency contact information need to be completed in the Parent Portal. This will eliminate the need for the office to call to follow up.**
- [Realtime Parent Portal](#)
- If you have any issues or forgot your login credentials, contact Mrs. Muia at rmuia@lebanonschool.org

YMCA Before/After Care

- [Registration](#)

Health Office...

- **Bully Free Zone:** Thank you to all the parents that have reviewed the Stop-Walk-Talk, Code of Conduct, HIB parent training and HIB Policy. If you haven't done so, please consider doing so soon. The students were busy focusing on the character trait of Citizenship this month. Our next character trait will be Respect.
- **Nurses News:** We had the pleasure of the county nurse from the health department providing hand washing lessons. She visited Preschool, Kindergarten and grades 1-3 on September 14th. The students were able to see how the "fake germs" spread and how we could wash them away. The boys and girls did a great job!
- **How To Report An Absence:**
 - Just a reminder, please notify the school when your child is going to be absent and the reason for their absence. Any of these methods can be accessed throughout the day. If calling in the morning, please do so by 8 am. Thank you!
 - 1. Call the main number (908-236-2448) and leave a message on the absentee line (press #3).
 - 2. Email your teacher and cc the nurse (lkosciolek@lebanonschool.org) and secretary (rmuia@lebanonschool.org).
 - 3. You can submit the absence electronically from the school website. For your convenience I have included the link; <http://www.lebanonschool.org/Report-An-Absence>

Safety Patrol

Congratulations, Ella Driscoll, you have been recognized as the Safety Patroller for the month of September. Your kindness and assistance to the LBS students and staff have shown excellent leadership qualities. I do think you have



performed your safety patrol duties to the best of your ability with all your hard work and effort over the past month. Please keep up the good work and congrats!

Art

Your incredibly inventive and courageous children have already adorned the walls of the school with some new artwork! Work from our Summer Art Camp is on display in the library and lobby, and every student in the school created their own “dot” for our International Dot Day bulletin board outside of the fifth grade classroom. Students of every grade were able to explore dot-making stations in the art room in order to achieve two objectives: make a mark and practice our art room procedures. 100% success!



Kindergarteners and first graders have been introduced to minimalist artist Frank Stella. He will inspire their introduction to line as an element of art. They’ll continue working on their line

designs for the next few weeks. Second and third graders are jumping into Fall and figure drawing. They remember a bit about figure drawing from previous years, but we must exercise our drawing muscles in order to grow



and improve. They are

creating a self portrait jumping into a pile of leaves. More and more layers of this assignment will be added in the next few weeks. Fourth through sixth grade classes are getting a lesson in being kind to themselves, adapting during the creative process, and focusing on the mark at the moment by making



Zentangle sculptures. They will work for a few weeks on their line patterns and pencil shading before transforming their 2-D works to 3-D.

Next month, we’ll be continuing work on the projects we’ve started. You’ll find that students will spend several weeks working on an art project because the goal is to create authentic art in a way that allows students to share the skills they’ve gained. This is a practice and a journey. I’m lucky to be a part of it and looking forward to the year ahead. For a glimpse at some projects to come, check out our [Artsonia](#) page displaying student work from previous years.



Enrichment/Media/Technology

September was filled with team building and collaborative groups! All grades discussed how STEM challenges make us think and sometimes they stretch our thinking. We decided we are not going to use the word **can’t**, instead we discussed “*the power of yet!*” K-2 started out the year with creating this collaborative Power of Yet Puzzle!



K-2 also participated in International Dot Day, celebrating the 20th anniversary of *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds. We created pictures out of smaller dots and some even created their own 3D dot to represent their likes and interests!

All grades worked on building various structures. Grades 3-6 created objects out of Legos. After the structures were built the students created a google slide to present to the class including: object’s name, a picture of their creation, and what their creation does. This was a review of how to import pictures and create text. These



BETTER TOGETHER!



skills we will be using throughout the year in many different subjects. Kindergarteners were trying to build a new house for the Three Little Pigs that the Big Bad Wolf couldn't blow down. First and second graders explored building with various materials and working in groups to practice team building skills. Third and fourth graders also learned how coding works and even made patterns with beads to illustrate binary code. We will continue to explore coding throughout the year. All students have also practiced coding on Kodable.org, which teaches the basics of coding and increases the difficulty as they move through the program.

3-6th graders who opted into TREP\$ have started to learn about how to become an entrepreneur and the steps to running a successful business! Save the date for the **TREP\$**

MARKETPLACE in the LBS Gym- Dec. 6th from

5-7 pm. There will be some awesome goods and services for sale that night, please come and check out our entrepreneurs!

Moving into October, we will focus on digital citizenship in grades K-6 and some fun October themed STEM activities.



Music

My name is Armando Gonzalez and I am excited to work with the students at LBS! All of the students in my classroom are musicians. This includes all students from preschool through our sixth grade.

I am excited to announce the new winter concert format. The fifth and sixth grade band will perform a few pieces, followed by a singing performance from each grade level. Each grade will have their time to shine this December! The students are very excited about this opportunity!

In preschool, kindergarten, and first grade, we have focused on

establishing a steady beat, by singing and dancing. In some classes, we have established a steady beat using rhythm sticks to reinforce the concept. In grades two and three, we have focused on rhythm and different rhythmic patterns.

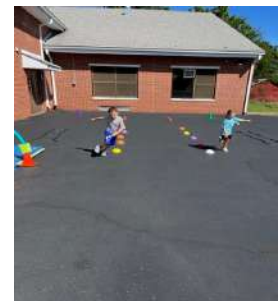


Physical Education/Health

The start of another school year has begun and PE and Health has started strong. This September in PE all grade levels have been learning the importance of

maintaining and building on their fitness levels. Pre-K -2nd graders have been learning and practicing new movements and exercises, 3rd -6th graders have also been practicing new exercises and learning the importance of fitness components such as cardio, muscular strength, flexibility and balance. Throughout the year everyone will continue to build on their fitness levels as they practice different games, sports, activities and team building skills. As a side note, please be mindful that proper footwear is required for safety and comfort for PE class and for playground play. 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 focused on safety and our monthly positive character trait of citizenship. We have begun the use of our new Great Body Shop Program. Your child will bring home a workbook at the end of each monthly unit to share with you what they have been learning. In October we will focus on throwing and catching. These are very important skills that will be practiced in my class and in their daily lives. Below are a few pics of our students having fun while building on their fitness levels and our little ones





practicing how to get low and crawl if they are ever in a smoke filled area. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns. Here is to a wonderful school year filled with positive experiences.

Spanish

Septiembre has been super! We are doing amazing things in Spanish class!

Kindergarteners have been learning the basics and routines of class, including numbers 1-10, colors, and the alphabet in Spanish. We have a great time incorporating movement with comprehension by showing we understand what to do. Grades 1 and 2 are practicing vocabulary about classroom routines and vocabulary. We are learning vocabulary to talk about all aspects of the calendar: how to express the months, days, and year, weather, and time.

Grades 3 has been concentrating on listening skills. Instructions are often given in the target language, and we are improving with every class. Many times we can conduct much of the lesson part of our class in Spanish.

In Grades 4, 5, and 6, we have started a new program called *Somos*. *Somos* means “we are” in Spanish, and this program is based on the comprehensible input model of language acquisition. We talk about the differences between acquiring a language and learning it, and how babies are taught their native language effortlessly—without any books or pencils! This program focuses on making sure every word spoken in the target language is understood by students, and creating community between students and teacher so that language

acquisition can happen naturally. Our main song focus has been *Los Pollitos Dicen*—ask your student to sing it to you!

All classes are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, which began September 15th. We have been learning about many famous people of Hispanic origin with a focus on the famous artist and painter, Frida Kahlo. Ask your student what color Frida’s house was, and hopefully he/she will tell you “AZUL!”



Preschool

This month Preschool has been learning the rules and routines of the classroom. We have all adjusted well to a new classroom, new friends and new procedures.

AM: We learned about the people in our school who help us, we also talked about fall. We started our handwriting without tears program learning about the big and little lines, big and little curves, how to hold our crayons/pencils, we built mat man and started to practice coloring in our handwriting books.

PM: We looked at different emotions we can feel, why we feel them and how we can help ourselves and others when we are feeling different emotions, we learned about the fall time and families, we started our handwriting without tears program learning about the big and little lines, big and little curves, and jumped into learning our letters and numbers (F, E, P, 1, 2)



In October we will learn about apples, pumpkins, farms and halloween. We are all looking forward to Halloween!

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. The class is doing a great job helping each other learn and sharing responsibilities.



In science, the kindergarten class is raising three Monarch Butterflies. One emerged from its chrysalis Tuesday morning, which was very exciting! Our last two butterflies should be emerging soon. The class seems to enjoy observing them through all of the stages. We have been drawing pictures and creating a butterfly observation mini book. They also created a project to show the stages of the life cycle. Next, we will begin learning about what animals and plants need to survive.

In reading, the kindergarten class has been working on our first three sight words. We will continue to learn new sight words each week. 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 learn our letter sounds. 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. We are learning to form our uppercase letters using our “Handwriting Without Tears” program. We have been enjoying the songs and tactile tools that help us remember the steps for each letter. 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 tactile tools to practice letter formation and sight words. The students are meeting with me, one-on-one or in a small group 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 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 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. Next month we will learn how pumpkins grow. 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 excellent job learning new routines! During the first weeks of school, we've learned about our school and classroom rules. In Science, we started our unit on “The Spinning Sky”. During one lesson, the students conducted an experiment to answer the question “Could a statue’s shadow move?” The students learned that the sun can cause stationary objects’ shadows to move! Later, we will observe the sun and its daily patterns in the sky. Also, in the coming weeks during Social Studies, we will learn why rules and laws are essential in our community.

In Reading, we've learned that realistic fiction texts are made-up stories that could happen in real life. In stories like The Blackout and Henry on Wheels, we're learning how to make predictions, ask questions, identify the characters and setting, and retell the stories in our own words. Later, we will begin reading informational texts. The students will learn that informational texts have headings and labels on the photographs. Also in the weeks to come, the students will be using The Daily Five and Reader's Workshop to practice the reading strategies we've been learning independently. In spelling, we are reviewing our short vowel sounds.



In Math, we've learned 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. 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 return to school and can't wait to learn so many new things!

Second Grade

It has been a very busy and exciting first month of school in the second grade classroom! We are settling into our routines and having tons of fun while doing so. In English Language Arts, we are currently working on learning all about realistic fiction and informational texts, and how they help us in our everyday lives! Our first big writing project is coming up, and we will be going through the writing process to write an informational text about ourselves. We have gotten into full Daily Five rotations and are really loving them!

In Math, we have conquered our double facts and how to use them to help solve our one-step word problems. This class loves our math lessons and centers, it is our favorite time of the day! Next month, we will continue to use our addition and subtraction skills to help us break down more one-step word problems. We are practicing our mental math strategies and learning how they will help us be quick math-thinkers.



In Social Studies, we completed our first magazine and learned all about what it means to be a good citizen and how to contribute to our democracy! In Science, we are beginning our very first unit that will bring us into the month of October. We will be learning all about animals and their different qualities and classifications. We will be doing hands-on experiments and it is always a lot of fun to see our predictions come to life!

With September done, we are excited for all of the learning we will be doing the next nine months- I can't wait to watch our second grade family grow into wonderful learners!

Third Grade

The "Cool-Crew" is in full stride this fall. We started off the year with incredible **Hot Topic** presentations from students' summer nonfiction reading. Their personal interest in their chosen topics shined through in all of their speeches! In math we are learning all about multiplication and the strategies to solve problems using our knowledge of making equal groups. We've been studying our

times tables and have had great success with our motivational Racetrack-earning “car” rewards along the way. In reading we have embarked on our Daily 5 Reading framework whereby reading and writing and listening to reading are enriching our English learning experiences.

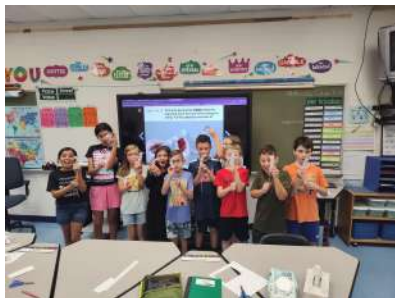
We’ve read two wonderful cultural tales with similar plots, and have focused on asking lots of “thick” questions before, during, and after reading. We are also identifying key story elements, such as characters, setting, and understanding themes in tales. In writing we are focused on



our first personal narrative which is based on a real experience. We are learning to write in a way that “explodes the moment”. Our writing goal is to show our reader our personal story through enhanced imagery. We also wrote fall poems based on the 5W questions. In social studies we are learning about Citizenship and how citizens have roles and responsibilities, and rights! We were good citizens this month and made cards for the elderly, and acknowledged the important role of “First

Responders” in our life. In science we are learning all about animal life cycles. We are comparing and contrasting the life cycles of animals. Students have created models to build an understanding that all organisms share certain stages in their life cycles: birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

Next month we look forward to mastering more of our multiplication times tables and continuing to learn about life cycles using mealworms! We will continue writing and sharing our stories, and becoming good citizens of our classroom and more!



Fourth Grade

The Fourth Grade class has been doing a LOT of investigative work this month. We dubbed ourselves Ingram’s Investigation Squad, as we are using clues in our reading, writing, math, science and social studies to figure out the why, how, what, where, when, who in all of our learning areas!

We discovered a lot about ourselves and our classmates as we organized and designed our classroom expectations and procedures to start the school year off on a great note. Our kindness wall and collaborative

conference table art set a wonderful tone for an excellent start of our year. And we learned even more about our classmates and ourselves by publishing outstanding self portraits and bio-poems.

The mysteries of the human machine and how it works were investigated with tendon/finger experiments, reflex demonstrations, Mystery Science videos and various learning activities. With math we have figured out



how to successfully round, estimate and compare multi-digit numbers in our first math module lessons. We are discovering where we are on the earth by using longitude, latitude and map reading skills. And we are using all of our clues and information to develop a better understanding of our community networks, as well as our global networks through narrative, autobiographical and biography studies.

Our reading and writers’ workshops have provided us strategies to use when responding to questions and writing prompts, And we are improving our use of the R.A.C.E. strategy



for written responses. We are looking forward to publishing many more written works this year, as well as diving into some terrific novel studies!



Fifth Grade

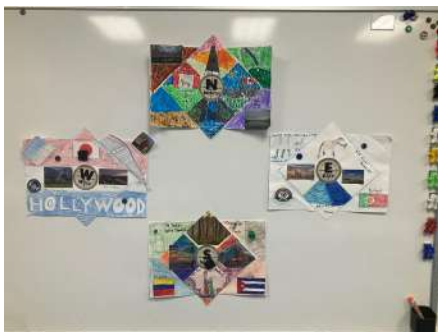
LBS fifth graders have had a busy kickoff to the 2022-2023 school year. A major highlight of our September was getting trained in the Wingman program. Our class took two days away from our classroom to participate in a number of team building activities. These active (and tiring!) games and challenges were designed to help us grow individually and as leaders here at school. In the coming months, we look forward to visiting with our peers in younger grades and leading them in some Wingman learning and fun!

Back in the classroom, fifth grade has been hard at work addressing a concept that will be vital to success throughout the year: Place Value. An important new piece of this idea has been exploring exponents and powers of ten. Understanding how the value of each digit compares to another deepens understanding of numbers, particularly when we explore decimals in the spring. We have also been solidifying our single-digit multiplication facts. Timed activities (like our Otter Creek program) and fun games are helping us all to recall key facts more and more automatically. These skills will be especially helpful as we move into our next math unit on division.



The cardinal directions come up constantly across our learning in Grade 5. Whether it's reading maps in social studies, tracking our Sun and Moon in science, or using a coordinate grid in math, we reference directions all the time. To that end, the class used a host of tools – Google Maps, Google Earth, atlases, and posters to answer the question: What would you find if you left Lebanon Borough School and walked due North, South, East, and West. The students took these cities and landmarks, countries and landforms, and turned them into posters that will enliven our walls and always point us in the right “direction”!

We've just begun our first unit of Mystery Science, and the class was excited to see questions Doug had in store for us. We're beginning with biology and food chains. Students worked together to create food chains from a set of plants and animals. They enjoyed seeing how many creatures could reasonably exist in the same ecosystem.



We began the year in ELA by reading *The Thing About Georgie*, a realistic novel that tells the often humorous story of a boy, who has dwarfism, facing some of the challenges all kids his age go through. Students found the “things” (character traits) about different characters in the book, and worked to support their ideas with evidence from the text. Our first reading unit is named *Journeys*. We will be reading many kinds of stories (from historical fiction to informational text and even poetry) which present characters involved in life changing experiences. At the same time, we will

continue working on key comprehension techniques, like identifying a main idea and supporting details. We look forward to reporting our activities in the Wildcat throughout the year and wish everyone a wonderful fall!

Sixth Grade

Sixth Grade is off to a busy start this year! We have been so busy, the days are flying. Even the 6th graders have commented on how quickly our days fly!

In reading, we spent the first week working with our summer reading, *The Westing Game*. Each student (or pairs) created a 3D project based on the mystery. It was a lot of fun. We next turned from mystery to adventure with *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead Moore. It is a fun book which the class



seems to enjoy. Next month we will make a 180° turn and begin reading *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, which seems an appropriate fantasy to lead us into Halloween! In other English/Language Arts we have been working in Membean and learning parts of grammar with our Interactive Grammar Notebook, while also getting started on Greek and Latin roots.

In social studies, we are learning about early river civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, China and India. Once we finish these, we will move on to ancient Latin American civilizations.

Science provided us an opportunity to learn about genetics and create our own monsters using alleles from two parent

monsters. The students were challenged to create a genetic solution to their monsters' problems -- they have been very creative!

Finally, we spent a day reviewing and extending our leadership skills with the Wingman program. Most of our students are really looking forward to sharing their experiences with the younger grades this year.

Donate to the PTA and Stay Informed

- Our PTA is a wonderful organization that works in conjunction with the school to provide students with enriching opportunities that could not happen without its support. Field trips, assemblies, family events, supplies, and equipment are just a few of the many ways that our PTA supports the children of Lebanon Borough. Please be sure to donate to the PTA!
- The PTA is also using the Remind tool to keep parents up to date on all things LBS PTA. Please use the instruction sheet linked here to sign up.
 - [Donation Form and Remind Instructions](#)

Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org