



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

October 2024

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

As we step into the autumn season, I'm filled with pride reflecting on our smooth start to the school year. September has been a whirlwind of excitement and learning, truly embodying our school motto, "Better Together." The energy and enthusiasm I've witnessed from our students, staff, and families have set a positive tone for the year ahead.

Our journey began with the sight of eager faces on the first day of school. The classrooms buzzed with excitement as students reconnected with friends and met their new teachers. Our Back to School Night was a success, offering parents a glimpse into their children's daily learning environments and fostering those crucial home-school connections. A special highlight was our 5th and 6th-grade Wingman training, where our older students embraced their roles as leaders and mentors within our school community. These experiences have already shown us how much stronger we are when we work together.

Looking ahead to October, we have a month packed with important events and learning opportunities. We'll kick off with the NJ Week of Respect (October 7-11), where we'll focus on fostering kindness, empathy, and mutual respect among our students. This will be followed by School Violence Awareness Week (October 14-18), during which we'll reinforce the importance of creating a safe and supportive school environment for all. Remember, it's through our collective efforts that we create a nurturing space where every child can thrive.

Mark your calendars for School Picture Day on October 9th. It's a wonderful chance to capture those growing smiles! And of course, we can't forget our annual Halloween Parade on October 31st at 9am. This tradition brings our community together in a spirit of fun and creativity – a perfect example of how we're "Better Together" even in our celebrations.

As we navigate through this new month, I encourage everyone to embrace our school motto. Whether it's collaborating on a class project, supporting classmates at a school event, or simply offering a kind word to someone in need, remember that we achieve our greatest successes when we support one another. Let's continue to build a school community where every individual feels valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential. Here's to another fantastic month of growth, learning, and togetherness at Lebanon Borough School!

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.
Superintendent

Important Dates

Oct 3	School Closed-Rosh Hashanah
Oct 6-11	Week of Respect
Oct 7	PTA Mtg 6:30pm
Oct 14	School Closed - Staff Inservice
Oct 7-11	PTA Clothing Drive
Oct 9	School Picture Day
Oct 14-18	School Violence Awareness Week
Oct 15	BOE Mtg 6:45pm
Oct 17	Walking School Bus 8am
Oct 25	School Picture Retakes
Oct 28-Nov 1	Red Ribbon Week
Oct 31	Halloween Parade 9am
Nov 4-6	Early Dismissal (12:45 pm) Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov 7-8	School Closed NJEA Convention

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Office Items

Standardized Assessment Notification

New Jersey school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects are required by statute (N.J.S.A. 18A: 7C-6.6) to annually notify parents or guardians by October 1 or within 30 days of any additional statewide student assessment or commercially developed standardized assessment that will be administered over the course of the school year.

[See Schedule Here](#)

YMCA Before/After Care

- [Registration](#)

Health Office...

Bully Free Zone: Thank you to all the parents who 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: When in doubt, please follow these guidelines on when to keep your child home from school. If you have any questions, please contact me at 908-236-2448 ext 114 or lkosciolek@lebanonschool.org.

- Has a fever of 100.0 degrees or higher OR
- Has been vomiting or has diarrhea within the past 24 hours OR
- Has symptoms that keep him or her from participating in school, such as:
 - Very tired, poor appetite
 - Cough that he or she can not control, sneezing often
 - Headache, body aches, or earache
- Sore throat-a minor sore throat is ok for school but a severe sore throat could be strep throat, even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children may include headache, stomach upset, or rash. Contact your healthcare provider if your child has these symptoms.
- Keep your child home until the fever has been gone for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications such as Tylenol, Motrin, or Advil. Returning to school too soon may slow recovery & expose others to unnecessary illness.
- Keep your child home for 24 hours after the last vomiting or diarrhea episode.
- Keep your child home if he/she is coughing or sneezing frequently and is unable to cover the cough/sneeze and is spreading germs to others.
- If your child's illness isn't resolving, please contact your healthcare provider for assistance. If your child has an illness that is contagious, they will need a doctor's note to return to school.



Thank you for your assistance in keeping our school safe and healthy!!

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!



Safety Patrol

Our safety patrol teams are off to a fantastic start this year!

The Team Captains, Valentina and Chase, have demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities by carrying out their duties with ease. Each team has been demonstrating excellent leadership qualities, cooperation, and responsibilities as well as displaying a respectful and kind attitude to all LBS students and teachers.

As always, our captains are looking for exceptional behavior from their teams. When team members are “caught” doing things that are Above And Beyond (AAB), the patroller will receive AAB points. At the end of the month, it gets tallied up and that student is Patroller of the month. So with that in mind, I would like to congratulate our Safety Patroller for the Month of September **Charlie Fordham** for going Above and Beyond. Charlie has gone out of his way to help the students during arrival and dismissal times. Charlie has also volunteered to help out other teams and posts when we were short-handed safety patrollers. I am so excited, he decided to join our team this year. Congratulations Charlie, well deserved! Keep up the great work.



Art

Artwork Display: Our incredibly inventive and courageous children have adorned the walls of the school with stunning new artwork! The entire school has been working on paper quilts, learning about the process of quilt-making using various layers of fabric and patterns. The students also made their own portfolios to put their artwork in this year.

Younger Grades: Each grade created its own quilt.

Grades 3-5: Students worked on individual quilts depicting favorite memories from Lebanon School or acts of kindness.

6th Graders: Designed a school-wide quilt, which will be part of our October project.

Artsonia Connection: We are excited to display every student's artwork in the hallways and library! You can also view their creations on Artsonia.com. If you need assistance connecting to Artsonia, please reach out to kbaker@Lebanonschool.org.

Introduction to Paul Cézanne: Kindergartners, first, and second graders have begun exploring the work of artist Paul Cézanne, particularly his still-life paintings of apples. Students have learned to paint with brushes gently, mix colors to create orange and understand backgrounds, highlights, and shadows.



Additional Information: As we continue our art journey, I encourage families to engage with the art projects at home. Discussing the techniques and themes explored in class can enhance your child's learning experience.

I am grateful for your ongoing support in fostering a love for the arts in our students. It is a joy to see their enthusiasm and creativity flourish!



Enrichment/Media/Technology

September was filled with team building and collaborative groups! All grades discussed how to be a better friend and classmate. Grades 1-3 realized that STEM challenges make us think and sometimes they stretch our thinking. Grades 4-6 began the year exploring all the things that Google Slides can do, by creating an ALL ABOUT ME slide that was shared with the class.

The children learned how to import pictures, use animation, and transitions, create an emoji, add their slide to a collaborative slideshow, and add speaker notes in Google Slides. We will continue using Google Slides throughout the year; this was an introduction for some and a review for others.

Grades 3-6 also have been discussing digital citizenship and how to stay safe on the internet. Please ask your child what they can do to stay safe online and how to identify a safe website.

Grades 1-2 created vehicles and bridges by trying to copy vehicles or bridges from pictures out of building kits in small groups. This helped the children to practice working

collaboratively with their peers. Here are a few examples of their creations!

Kindergarteners worked together to build a house that the wolf couldn't blow down on the 3 Three Little Pigs, after listening to a few different versions of the story. Better Together!

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! We meet weekly to learn the

ins and outs of running our own business!

Save the date for the **TREP\$ MARKETPLACE in the LBS Gym- Dec. 12th from 5-6:30 pm.** There will be some awesome goods and services for sale that night, please come and check it out and support our 3rd-6th grade entrepreneurs!



Music

Welcome back to the new school year! I am so excited to work with the Lebanon Borough School's students this year!

We will begin the year reviewing some of the concepts that we finished last year with. This will include melody, rhythm, and harmony.

I am excited that I have some new things planned for this year, but you are going to have to stay in tune to find out more!

All of the classes have had a very strong start since the beginning of the year. And I look forward to a wonderful year. Stay tuned!



Physical Education/Health

The start of the new year always focuses on learning the importance of maintaining and building on their fitness levels. All grades have been practicing motor movements and exercises that help to build 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. In Health K-6th grade focused on safety and our monthly positive character trait of citizenship. This year marks the 2nd year of the implementation of The Great Body Shop (GBS) health

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program in our curriculum. Each monthly GBS workbook has a particular focus each month and touches on other related health topics. All students are encouraged to bring home their workbooks at the end of each unit to share with you what they have been learning. In October we will focus



on throwing and catching. Also please remember 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. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns. Here is to another wonderful school year filled with positive experiences.



Spanish

Septiembre has been super! We are doing super cool 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. We are learning vocabulary to talk about all aspects of the calendar: how to express the months, days, year, weather, and time.

Grades 3-4 have been concentrating on verbs pertaining to back-to-school vocabulary. 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 5 and 6, we have started learning Cien Verbos! (100 verbs!) This recall of verbs will help as we begin to read more and can use our knowledge of verbs to understand our reading.

All classes are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, which began September 15th. We have been learning about many famous people of Hispanic origin and why we celebrate this important month.



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, and 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



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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, 3)
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 Monarch Butterflies. Three have already emerged and we set them free. We have one that is getting ready to make its chrysalis very soon. They are always excited to see them each day. They seem to enjoy observing them through all of the stages. We have been drawing pictures and creating a butterfly observation mini-book. Next, we will begin learning about what animals and plants need to survive.

In reading, the kindergarten class has been working on our first six 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 class has been writing lists of words in the writing center and drawing pictures to match. This week our words have an autumn theme. 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. This week was Apple Week. We did many fun activities to learn more about apples. We learned the parts of an apple. We did apple math 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 in getting this year off to a great start!

First Grade

Wow! The beginning of the school year has been a whirlwind of activity! We've been doing so much already and not slowing down! In math, we have been learning different strategies for addition. In ELA, we've been learning about some new genres, including realistic fiction and informational texts. Soon, we will be learning about how-to books! In phonics, we've been learning about digraphs and syllables. We've just recently finished up our unit Shadows and the Sun in science. There's so much more fun science to go! In social studies, we are learning about the rules and laws that keep us all safe. What a superb September!

Second Grade

Second Grade has had a wonderful start to the new school year! We've learned all about one another during our "Me Bags" presentations, an opportunity to share all about ourselves and our special interests. We made many connections with one another, which helps build a strong class community. In math, it's been exciting to use our double facts and our "making a ten" strategy to solve more complex word problems. We're also learning all about arrays and repeated addition. We've learned new math games and had lots of opportunities to work together with engaging math tools. Next month, we will be learning about data and how information is collected and displayed. We will also use our addition and subtraction skills



to help us break down one and two-step word problems. In reading, we have focused on Realistic Fiction. We've read interesting stories about places all around us and how we are all affected by our surroundings. We've enjoyed poetry as well, specifically our Grandparents' Day poetry which we have memorized and look forward to sharing very soon with our loved ones! We have also embarked on our first writing project, a narrative story based on a special memory. We are tackling the art of description in our writing. This month we wrote fall poems, a small book report, and learned all about cows for a short information sheet! In science, we are developing an understanding of animal biodiversity. Students have explored animal classification and the traits that define each group. We're now focusing on animal habitats and how the environment affects organisms. In social studies we have learned about the three branches of government and why our government is set up this way. We will soon learn all about the presidential election process and what voting is all about!

Third Grade

Third grade has had a crazy start. I am Mrs. Barkel's maternity leave, Ms. Hamrah.

The students and I got to know each other in the morning meeting. The students are eager to learn and I'm eager to teach. We are learning about fables in ELA, writing narratives, and spelling. The students were excited to write about their favorite hobby. They utilized Google Docs and added pictures to their story. They are learning vowel teams to decode and encode words. They are rocking it! In math, the students are learning to multiply! They are learning all different strategies to multiply. Our classroom uses IXL for extra practice. They love being successful.

The students were excited to start Science. We are learning all about fossils. They were able to dig for their own fossils. They found shark teeth, clams, and shells. We are getting more in-depth with fossils

in October. In Social Studies, we are exploring maps and locations. Students will be learning how to read maps. This is an exciting time to understand where they live in the world. I am so proud of them. They transitioned well to having a new teacher. It is an exciting time of growth for us all.

Fourth Grade

It's hard to believe this outstanding class of fourteen shiny bright stars has only been together as fourth graders for 21 days! They have fully embraced our classroom procedures and routines, and have put into daily practice our three main classroom principles: kindness, responsibility, and respectfulness. Throughout all aspects of our day, the students are doing the very best they can to treat one another with kindness, increase their confidence with new responsibilities, and engage with all school community members respectfully. We are very proud of our work!

Back to School Season was jam-packed with so many awesome activities. We started our classroom garden by designing and planting our succulents. We continued showcasing our talents by creating a collaborative collage for our writing conference table. We illustrated and discussed what kindness looks like, and developed a wall of kindness display. We turned our adjectives and synonyms lessons into personal self-description portraits called, "In Other Words Project." We sped off into writing prompts lessons by learning how to utilize the RACE strategy for written responses. We are filling our writers' journals with hopes and dreams for fourth grade and the future, as well as personal notes to our new plants as the intended audience. We also developed personal writing goals for the first trimester.

We are enjoying daily classroom debates and enthusiastic discussions during our "First Five" SEL component of our morning. Our Monday morning Weekend

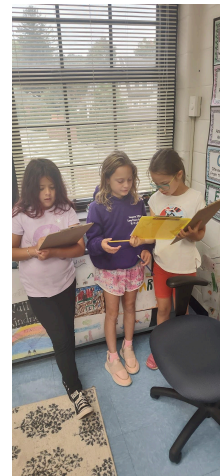
Updates have proven to be a wonderful opportunity for our class to learn about our family life, interests, adventures, and highlights outside of school.

We determined our Homework Team Tally Board Team names and are filling up our points each day we complete our homework assignments. The class is diving into TREP\$ and the entrepreneurship curriculum with gusto. They are deep into our Geography Unit and can plot and understand GPS coordinates using longitude and latitude. We researched and know exactly where Lebanon Borough is on the earth, in longitude and latitude degrees North and West.

Math Module 1 introduced us to place value, estimation, renaming, expanded form, and comparing numbers up to the millions' place! We are now into Module 2 and adding, subtracting, and estimating up to 6-digit numbers. Our

Rocket Math Fast Facts enable us to recall our multiplication facts very quickly. We will be onto fast facts division in no time!

Our class is thoroughly enjoying our read-aloud, *WISHTREE*, by Katherine Applegate. It's a beautifully crafted story about tolerance, love, optimism, and friendship. The class has been identifying the many similes and metaphors woven throughout this beautiful tale told from the point of view of the 216-year-old oak tree, Red.



Our Autobiography genre study had us all fully enamored by Buzz Aldrin and his autobiography, *Reaching for the Moon*. Suffixes, nouns, adjectives, prefixes, and synonyms lessons have kept us busy. And we have really enjoyed practicing for our spelling test during our weekly Thursday Spelling Bee. Our next genre study is Biography. We will also start planning and drafting our next writing pieces; a Bio Poem and a personal narrative piece.

It's hard to believe we are beginning the month of October. Stay tuned for our first book report project announcement-Pumpkin Character Book report. We will turn a pumpkin into one of our favorite characters from our October book choice. Happy Fall to all!



Fifth Grade

LBS fifth graders have had a busy kickoff to the 2024-2025 school year. A major highlight of our September was getting trained as Wingman leaders. Joined by grade six, our class took two days away from the classroom to participate in a number of team-building challenges. These active (and tiring!) activities 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 later on in the Spring. We have also been solidifying our single-digit multiplication facts. Timed activities (like our Otter Creek program) 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.

We've just begun our first unit of Mystery Science, and the class was excited to see what questions Doug has 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.

In social studies, we stepped back and took a look at the different regions that make up our country. The sheer variety of landforms, climates, and bodies of water that make up our country is truly incredible to consider. To wrap up the unit, students created and shared presentations on some of the bodies of water that add to the beauty and to the economy of the United States. From the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Puget Sound to the mighty Mississippi River, they did an outstanding job giving us a tour of our nation's magnificent waterways.

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. Our first reading unit is named *Journeys*. We will be reading many kinds of stories (from historical fiction to informational text and even poetry) that 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 school year and wish everyone a wonderful Fall!

Sixth Grade

Sixth Grade is off to a busy start this year! In reading, we spent the first week working with our summer reading, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. After some benchmarks, we quickly turned 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. There is so much to discover in these cradles of civilization. Once we finish these, we will move on to the ancient Latin American civilizations of the Maya, Inca, and Aztec people

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 solve a genetic mystery using Punnet Squares and specific alleles.

Finally, we spent two days 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.



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

Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org