



# THE WILDCATS ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

December 2019

## Mr. Arcurio's Corner

### *Gifts and Caring*

The holiday season is now in full swing and the energy in the building will continue to grow. For me, Thanksgiving was a time of family, friends, and reflection. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with your children and their teachers each day. It is a pleasure being a part of a learning community like Lebanon Borough where families and the school work together in the best interests of the children. This is a gift that I do not take for granted.

I think that it is appropriate during this holiday season to reflect upon the gifts that we've been given and those that we have to share. Often times the true feeling of giving is overshadowed by the hustle and bustle of the season. I would like to ask everyone to take a few moments to step back and appreciate the gifts we have; such as freedom, family, and the piece of mind that goes along with living in a caring

community. It is also important for us to realize that we give gifts to others everyday. Our character concept for November and December is **CARING** and we can show this in so many simple ways. Sometimes a kind word, help with a math problem, or a smile at the right time can mean a great deal to those around us. At LBS caring is part of our daily lives. Thank you for all that you do as part of our community and may your holiday traditions be happy!

Better Together,  
Bruce Arcurio - Lead Learner/Superintendent

Important Dates	
Dec 2	PTA Meeting
Dec 5	BOE Meeting
Dec 9	Report Cards Distributed
Dec 11	LBS Winter Concert
Dec 20	Early Dismissal
Dec 23-Jan 1	Winter Break
Jan 2	School Reopens

## Office Items



### **Emergency Closing/Delay Information**

Please note that there are multiple avenues to check for a delayed opening or closing on mornings where there may be a question. Following are some methods that can be checked if you feel you missed the One Call Now call:

- District Website: [www.lebanonschool.org](http://www.lebanonschool.org)
- Twitter: @LBSWildcats
- School Phone Message: (908) 236-2448
- Email: Along with the One Call Now calls and texts, an email is sent to the email on file.

Also note that when LBS has:

**BETTER TOGETHER!**

- a school closing - all school and after school activities including before/after-care are canceled for that day.
- an early dismissal - the day ends at 12:45 pm and all after school activities are canceled. YMCA Aftercare availability will be determined on that date based on the weather.
- a 90-minute delay - the students may enter the school at 10:00 am and YMCA Beforecare begins 90 minutes later than usual at 8:30 AM.

### **Before and Aftercare**

Just a reminder that Lebanon Borough School offers onsite **Before and Aftercare** through the YMCA. If you are interested in the program please contact the main office for more information or check it out on our website: [Before and Aftercare](#).

### **Health Office...**

**Bully-Free Zone:** During November and December, the students focus on the character trait of CARING. This Holiday Season provides the students an opportunity to experience the themes of kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness and helping others in need. Also, I visited with the students to review our Stop-Walk-Talk program. Our next assembly will be Dec 19th.

**Nurse's News:** Student go outside everyday for recess, if weather permits for fresh air and exercise. Please send your children to school with the appropriate attire depending on the weather. Coats, layered sweatshirts, accessories like hats, gloves, scarves and boots are a must to protect students from the cold and wind. If it is a gym day, don't forget to pack their sneakers into their backpacks to change into later.

### **Art**

Happy Thanksgiving! Our artists had a wonderful November! Kindergarten finished creating their Crayon friends and had so much fun doing so! Next they illustrated a still-life of a fruit bowl learning about space and form. After mastering blended oil pastels in their landscapes, First grade learned about Complementary colors by recreating Matisse's Goldfish painting through guided drawing. Third grade discussed the relationship between color and feeling by observing warm colored sunset vs. cold colored sunsets. They then used watercolor crayons to create their own original warm or cold sunset painted papers. Next we will create silhouettes of animals and trees for the foreground. Third grade had a delicious time practicing drawing all different types of desserts for their Wayne Thiebaud inspired artwork. Fourth grade learned about the artform of "Zentangles" and created landscapes with different Zentangle designs. Fifth grade observed the artworks of Keith Haring to create their own original illustration based on his style and the use of line to emphasize movement and animation. Sixth grade completed their beautiful waterfalls and began their own Typo Composition artwork by decomposing their names turning letters into abstract positive and negative shapes. Please check out my webpage on the school website for photos of projects in-process and announcements of artwork on display! <https://laurapellegrino.myteachersite.org/teacher/site/>



### **Music**

We are getting so excited about our upcoming performance on December 11, 2019 at 6:30 PM! All Pre-K (PM) through 6th Grade students have been working on their tone, rhythm, following melodic direction, harmony singing, and choreography through our concert repertoire. All grades have been evaluating and critiquing their performances using our new music vocabulary words including tone, melody, harmony, dynamics, intonation,





pitch, cut-off and more. We have also been learning about following a conductor and performance etiquette. Our 4th grade beginning band members have expanded their range on their instruments and have continued their band karate belt testing. Many students are now preparing for their challenging orange belt test which includes a



combination of their first 5 pitches as well as various rhythmic values. Their tone continues to improve along with their coordination. It is great to see them gaining so much confidence as they improve!

The 5th and 6th grade band members are working on perfecting their concert repertoire. They have been evaluating their rehearsals as a class in order to find areas in need of improvement and have been offering suggestions in order to perfect these sections. It is wonderful to see that they can pick out these trouble spots and work to correct them as a group. We are so excited to share their music with you!

### **Physical Education/Health**

This past month in PE and Health our K- 2nd grade PE students progressed to the overhand throw and 3rd-6th focused on frisbee\disc throwing games and ultimate frisbee. Each of these grades continued the catching cues they were taught for all activities and games. Pre-K learned different team cooperation games that involved continued practice of motor skills involving relay and tag games. WE also played some fun Thanksgiving games. The focus for November in Health class for grades K-3rd was the stages of growth, our skeletons, muscles and organs like the heart and lungs. 4th-6th grades learned about medications and illegal drugs, with a focus on the mis-use and abuse of all drugs and their harmful effects. For December K-6th Grades will practice striking games, such as volleyball. They will learn the fundamentals with balloons and beach balls and progress to learner volleyballs. Pre-K will work to add and improve their motor skill proficiency using games and activities that promote teamwork and cooperation. Health classes for K-6th will focus on our feelings and the feelings of others, self confidence\value, self control and conflict resolution.

### **Technology, Enrichment, A.T., SSS**

With Thanksgiving, Teachers' Convention, and Early Dismissal days in November, the month went by quickly! Grades 3-6 learned more about the planet Mars, and how Mars and Earth compare. They took notes, and did a report or slides with the information they found, plus photos. It's a great introduction to next summer's Mars mission by NASA! Grades PreK-1 used iPads for various activities including using a grid, left/right, shapes and symmetry, reading, movement, and logical thinking (matrices). Second grade did individual reports on different kinds of butterflies, researching the coloring, habitat, size, and what they eat. They made a Keynote slide on their iPads with this information. It's fun to see how different they can be from the monarchs they raised earlier this year!



In A.T., the students in both groups have been experimenting, exploring, and creating using the activities in the OSMO Learning Game System. OSMO uses tangible pieces plus an iPad to create unique, hands-on learning experiences. We have lots of OSMO activities from which to choose!

In December, we will finish up any unfinished Mars and Butterfly projects. Then the whole school will participate in the week-long Hour of Code sponsored by [code.org](http://code.org). Once we finish the Hour of Code, all

classes will have coding lessons, using various apps and websites, as well as the [code.org](https://code.org) coding curriculum for K-6. The coding lessons will continue into 2020.

### **Girls on the Run**

A HUGE thank you to PTA for supporting Girls On The Run for our second season! Throughout the fall, our team focused on essential skills like friendships, confidence, and realizing our self worth. The girls trained and completed two 5ks. Just like last year, our practice 5k took place on the neighborhood streets of Lebanon. At the end of the season, we completed our celebratory 5k in New Hope with other girls in the program from Hunterdon, Bucks and Warren counties. The girls all demonstrated their dedication and hard work when it came to race day! In addition to the 5ks, our team planned and implemented their community service project. The girls set up a school-wide food and supplies donation for the St. Hubert's Animal Shelter in Branchburg. It was wonderful to see the girls grow both together as a team, and as individuals. We can't wait for our third season of Girls on the Run next fall! Again, we are so thankful to the PTA for helping make this incredible program happen!

-Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Farrell & Mrs. Kosciolk



### **Preschool**



AM:

In November we have been learning about trees, color mixing, and thanksgiving. We have made it to the letter H and are through all the shapes. We got to paint with our fingers to explore what happens when we mix 2 colors together. In December we will start learning numbers, continue our way through the alphabet, continue our trees unit and learn about different holidays.

PM:

In November we have been learning about color mixing, dinosaurs, nutrition and thanksgiving. We have started writing numbers and learning letter sounds through H. During our dinosaur unit each student got to pick a dinosaur egg to put in water and observe it throughout the week, each day we drew a picture to record what the egg looked like and how it changed from the previous day. We joined kindergarten for a thanksgiving activity. In

December we will learn about hibernation, gingerbread, and different holidays. We will continue to learn more letter sounds and numbers.



### **Kindergarten**

During the month of November, Kindergarteners were busy learning about the Pilgrims, the Native Americans, and the First Thanksgiving. We learned that the Pilgrims planned to land in Virginia, but bad weather and strong winds sent them to Plymouth. When they arrived they met the Native Americans, who helped to show them how to plant corn, beans, hunt and catch fish in the cold Northeast. We explored Plymouth Plantation on a virtual field trip.

In science, we have been learning about pushes and pulls. We discovered that you can bounce things off other things to change an object's direction and how they knocked down the Berlin Wall with buildings so close to both sides of the wall.

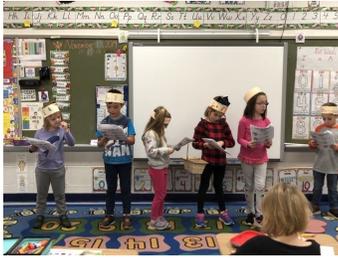


In December, we will be awaiting our pen-pal letters from 24 other schools around the USA. We are busy making paper gingerbread friends to send to our pen-pals including a letter about our areal. The children will learn about the different parts of the United States where our gingerbread friends visit us from.

In math we are exploring addition and already know that addition is adding groups together. We are also doing a great job with our reading and writing skills. The kindergartners have only been in school for 60 or so days and they are impressing themselves with all they can do at this point in the year on their own! It is great to see how proud they are of themselves!

### **First Grade**

In first grade, we're so excited about the many fun things to learn and explore this holiday season! We just wrapped up our Fairy Tale unit. The Kindergarten class was a great audience as we performed two Reader's Theatre plays: Little Red Riding Hood and The Little Red Hen. We're in the middle of our second unit in our Reading Street program where we've read a variety of nonfiction and realistic fiction texts about animals and Science topics. During guided reading and reader's workshop, we're working on our word attack skills and comprehension. We will continue to work on our reading fluency by rereading text, reading with appropriate expression, and practicing our weekly poems. We've begun Writer's Workshop and the students love it! In writer's workshop, we will still use a three step process to write personal narratives, friendly letters, how-to books and other various writing pieces throughout the year.



In math, we continue to work on addition concepts. The students are using pictures, cubes, and diagrams to help them add. Soon, the students will learn how to use pictures and models to solve subtraction word problems.. In December, we will revisit addition strategies. The students will apply strategies like doubles, doubles plus one, and doubles minus one to solve problems.

The students really enjoyed learning about the first Thanksgiving with 2nd grade. We performed a reader's theatre with 2nd grade that tells the story about the pilgrims and Native Americans. In December, we will begin our Holidays Around the World Unit where the students will learn about different holidays and traditions in other countries.. We will "visit" places like Uganda, Israel, China, India, Jordan, Mexico, France, Italy, Germany, and England. In January, we will begin our Science unit on the "Spinning Sky". The students will develop the idea that the sun, moon and stars change position in the sky.



### **Second Grade**

The second grade is currently working on a unit all about working together. They read stories about animals working together to help each other and people. They read a story about Abraham Lincoln and discussed ways that he worked to help our country. They have also been reading and listening to stories about friendship and helping others to build social skills and to encourage empathy and kindness. In December our character trait is caring. We will discuss ways that we can help others in need.

The class is working on writing a biography about a person of their choice. They read a book on their level about that person. They took notes and then began writing their biography. They are currently working to create a final draft and a drawing. Their next writing assignment will be an expository writing about a problem that they worked through with others.

In math, the class has been learning many strategies for adding 2-digit numbers. They completed their chapter on basic facts and relationships. We will continue to learn more strategies including regrouping

to add. Our next few chapters will include 3-digit addition and subtraction. They will also learn to regroup with zeros.

In science we are finishing our unit on animals. We learned about the Animal Kingdom and we are currently working on a Mystery Science activity about birds. The class is using what they know about different types of birds to create a bird feeder prototype that will work best for the bird they chose.

In social studies, the class has been learning about the Native Americans and the colonists. They all did an excellent job on their Native American shelter projects. They are on display in the front lobby of the school. They will be coming home very soon. The class is very excited to celebrate with the first grade class for our annual Thanksgiving activities. This year we are working on a play about the first Thanksgiving.

Happy Thanksgiving!



### **Third Grade**

*Once upon a time in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade*, students entered an imaginary land of vivid verbs and enchanted nouns! Students have begun writing beautifully descriptive Fairy Tales with elaborate plots and magical characters. They are learning how to write with fantastical ideas, but in such a way that our readers can draw clear conclusions. In math, students are learning about the associative property of multiplication so that they can strategize to find unknown products. We are also trying our best to make sense of two-step word problems and persevere in solving them. In Social Studies we have been comparing the three levels of government from a national view to a local one, and for our Character Education we have

focused on “Caring Tickets” with our classmates, which is something we share with our friends when we are impressed by their compassion and kind acts. In Science we began a unit of study called, “Animals Through Time.” We have explored the idea that the rock under our feet sometimes contains fossils. Students are learning that fossils reveal how habitats have changed through time. For example, fossilized shark teeth and starfish found in the center of North America are evidence that what is grassland today must have been an ocean in the ancient past. We are also focusing on dinosaurs and how we know what they looked like based on fossil bones, eggs and skin imprints. We’ve learned how to infer what the outside of an animal may have looked like by using clues from their skeleton. We are also exploring how the structure of an animal’s teeth says something about what kind of food the animal preferred to eat.

### **Fourth Grade**

Fourth graders are rolling into December with division and remainders! In Math, have learned how to divide with remainders. Now, we are hard at work interpreting our answers to apply them to real work situations. We are really getting the hang of it! Sometimes we need to add one to the quotient, sometimes just the remainder is the answer....sometimes we need to make the remainder into a fraction! Whatever the case, we are getting really good at it! As we move forward, students will be learning how to do long division. We will be using a catchy phrase to remember the steps once we explore how it all works. Super exciting!

In ELA, we read historical fiction interviews with passengers and crew members on the Mayflower. From here we combined our learned research and knowledge before writing a letter posing as a Mayflower passenger or crew member just after their arrival to someone back home. The students did a wonderful job incorporating the right tone/voice and using phrases and words from the time period. It was such fun! Be on the lookout for it! We will be diving into a class novel for December. Students will



work in class on their independent reading and responding with modeling and guidance. We will be amused by a family of interesting children and see how characters can change!

In Science, we build bridges out of only straws and tape that were able to hold at least 40 pennies. The challenge had specific criteria to be met while adhering to specific constraints and each student drew a plan of the type of bridge they were creating before diving into the creation. Next, we are about to start our exploration of Rocks. Ask your student if a volcano is likely to pop up in our area! They will tell you all about that after exploring and learning about the Ring of Fire. We can also identify which types of lava go with exploding volcanoes. We will continue our study of Rocks to see what happens to them over time and we will learn if we would be able to survive a landslide. All interesting stuff!!

In Social Studies, after taking a virtual field trip to Waterloo Village, we learned how to take notes. From our notes we will create a FlipBook all about the Lenape. Also late in December, we will also be talking about traditions. Students will be sharing about their December traditions as they practice their public speaking!

### **Fifth Grade**

Fifth graders are hard at work in Math learning about multiplying decimals by whole numbers, and decimals by decimals. They are learning the standard algorithm for solving problems the traditional way, as well as using drawings to model and explain their work. Math websites including Freckle Math are used to reinforce skills learned in our Go Math program. In ELA (English-Language Arts), the class has read varied genres of stories during the trimester. Recently, during the week of Veterans Day, a nonfiction selection titled “Hold the Flag High”, told the story of the Massachusetts Fifty-fourth Regiment -- comprised entirely of African Americans during the Civil War. This month, students have read biographies independently, written reports about the selected person, and have created a Google slide to present to the class with images and information. We also read a wonderful Chinese folk tale called “The Ch’i Lin Purse” which teaches to do good things for others, and good things will happen to you. In Social Studies, we are just about finished with our unit on the ancient Sumerians, and will soon begin the exciting study of the ancient Egyptians. Finally, in Science we finished our unit on the Web of Life (ecosystems), and have started our next unit titled, “A Watery Planet”. We began the unit by learning about what caused the Dust Bowl in the 1930’s in the great plains states. As November comes to an end, I’d like to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and enjoyable time spent with family!



### **Sixth Grade**

November has been a surprisingly productive month! We have completed another math chapter, our science unit on cells and body systems, and our history unit on the Greek Empire. We also began work on another literature study and will begin learning about the history of Rome in December.

We have continued our realistic/historical fiction theme of Fred Gipson’s *Old Yeller*. We spent time learning about 1860s Texas, hydrophobia (rabies) and what reading in the vernacular means. Next

month we will switch gears into the fantasy genre and begin reading *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

In social studies the students have now completed their studies of Ancient Greece. During this unit, the students were each given a different Greek god or goddess to research. They created presentations in Google slides, and then presented them to their classmates. From Greece we are moving to the Roman Empire, which we will study into December and possibly beyond.

We continued our math journey this month by completing chapter 3 (rational numbers) and almost completing chapter 4 (ratios and rates). We will have our chapter 4 test on the first Tuesday in December and then move on to percents. We have also made a side journey into positive and negative numbers -- it’s never too early to learn about debt!

In science we have finished our unit on photosynthesis and the movement of energy through organisms. We will begin to explore how organisms interact with each other and the environment in December by studying a trophic cascade that occurred in Yellowstone when the gray wolf was reintroduced into the ecosystem.

**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! The membership form can be found on the PTA page of our district website.



Visit our district website

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

and follow us on Twitter at

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