



# THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

February 2020

## **Mr. Arcurio's Corner**

Welcome to February! It has been a mild January overall and we have been able to avoid delays and closings. Hopefully, the weather will continue to favor use during the school week and we can enjoy a regular schedule. We are more than halfway through the school year and our staff and students are ready to for all of the learning opportunities throughout the rest of the winter. Our TREP\$ classes have begun with Mrs. Turner, students are learning to sign with Miss Rooney, the classroom and special education teachers are working to bring our core subjects to life, Mr. Torres is helping develop healthy habits, and our arts department is helping students explore their talents. There is always a great deal going on at LBS!

## **Full Day Preschool Lottery**

- Who: 4 slots available to any current LBS family with a student who will be 4 years old by October 1, 2020.
- What: Full Day Preschool in Lebanon Borough School. Families provide lunch and snack.
- Time: 8:40 am – 3:00 pm
- Cost: \$500 per month
- How: We will accept interest from LBS families with students currently attending the school in any grade until March 13, 2020. A form will come home in the Friday folder and via the Friday email. Be on the lookout for this.

### **Important Dates**

Feb 3	PTA Mtg 7pm
Feb 6	BOE Mtg 6:30pm
Feb 12	Winter Walk - Walking School Bus 8am
Feb 13	12:45 Early Dismissal Teacher Inservice
Feb 14&17	School Closed Presidents Weekend
Feb 26	PTA Pizza Lunch

## **Send/Receive Update**

At this time there is no movement on the Send/Receive agreement for our 7th and 8th-grade students. We are awaiting decisions on this that may come from meditating. At the last Board Meeting, we were asked why no information has been shared regarding the period of time that community members can make comment to the Commissioner of Education. This is simply because once the petition to leave the current agreement was opposed by the other district, a legal process must take place before the Commissioner can make a decision. We are in that process. However, at any time community members can make comment to the Commissioner on this subject, whether in disagreement with the petition or agreement. Here is the link to the website: <https://www.nj.gov/education/about/commissioner/>. If you wish to send your thoughts, you can click on the bottom of the page where it says, "contact us" and the address will come up, as well as a template to send an email.

Better Together,  
Bruce Arcurio - Lead Learner/Superintendent

**BETTER TOGETHER!**

## 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:

- 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:* As we go into February, the students will continue learning about Fairness. Fairness includes:

Playing by the rules

Being open-minded, Listening to others

Not taking advantage of others

Not blaming others carelessly

Please encourage your child to treat others with respect regardless of their differences.

*Nurse's News:* Dear parents, thank you for your cooperation in keeping your children home when they are ill. Keeping our students and staff safe and healthy during these winter months is a very important matter. LBS continues to have a low incidence of absence due to flu and other illnesses. Your assistance has been greatly appreciated.

### **Art**

The New Year is off to a great start! Thank you so much for so many generous holiday gifts last month, I truly appreciate how welcoming the LBS community is! Our Kindergarten artists had so much fun creating three dimensional paper sculptures! We practiced many different techniques such as folding, cutting, rolling, fringing and used paper edging scissors to create wonderful textures and line and shape designs. The sculptures are hanging outside of the front office for everyone to enjoy! I will post a photo of it to my website on the LBS school page. First grade 'got groovy' with neon oil pastels and created lava lamps using warm and cold colors while practicing blending the materials using proper techniques. Second grade completed their stunning safari sunsets and began a Name project focusing on the negative space between letters are areas of design. They also loved the first grader's lava lamps so much they wanted to make some of their own! Once both grades lamps are completed they will be on display outside their classrooms. Third grade discovered how to create three dimensional shapes disappearing into space by using one point perspective techniques with a vanishing point. They also focused on shading using colored pencils. Next we began our first Pop Art paintings of candy bar wrappers with

unique close up compositions. These paintings are done in neon tempera to mimic the bold color choices of Andy Warhol art. Fourth grade also explored one point perspective using a vanishing point to create a “worm’s eye” composition of trees in a forest. Students developed advanced skills in drawing the realistic form of a tree. Fifth grade completed their original Keith Haring illustrations and began new projects inspired by another great pop artist Jim Dine. We observed the shapes and forms of a variety of tools and paint brushes and created a balanced composition drawn in a realistic style with pencil and charcoal. The final touch of colorful splatter paint contrasts the drawings perfectly. Sixth grade learned the proper way to proportionately draw the human figure using “8 heads” and observed how all of our features align with each other. They then created a silhouette of a human form performing an action such as running, or jumping. These silhouettes became stencils for a repeating pattern of the figure creating the feeling of emphasis and movement across the page. 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**

It has been an exciting start to the new year in the music room! The 3rd graders began their recorder unit right after vacation. We have been learning about the music staff and how to differentiate the pitches based on the note placement. We have also been practicing reading rhythms, working on tone, and developing finger coordination while playing our recorders.

All other grades began the Mallet Madness unit! In this percussion unit, students have been rotating through both pitched (tuned) and unpitched (untuned) percussion instruments. Our primary focus for the beginning of the unit has been on rhythm. Students have been reading rhythms and performing them on their instruments in multiple parts.



We have also been learning about the pentatonic scale, text painting, dynamics, and various techniques including hands together, hands alternating, glissando, and tremolo. The upper grades have begun working on Orff orchestra arrangements where they are accompanying their singing in multiple parts simultaneously. They have even been improvising on their instruments using the pentatonic scale. The lower grades have been exploring size-pitch relationships and also accompanied the story of "Little Bunny Foo Foo" on their instruments! We had a great time singing and playing the story!



The bands began their new repertoire in January. The 5th/6th grade clarinets have been working on playing "over the break" which is always a big challenge. We are all really working on our reading skills and counting rhythms in order to put the parts together in our spring concert music. We are certainly enjoying the challenge and feel great each time a new section comes together! The 4th grade band members continue to expand their range and have even begun playing rounds and duets!

### **Physical Education/Health**

This past month in Physical Education, Pre-K continued practicing motor skills and cooperative play. Pre-K also get some play time with balloons help develop hand eye coordination. added to their motor skills activities. K-6th grade finished with hand striking games and activities through January. Classes worked with balloons, beach balls, safety volley balls, playground balls and foam gator balls play promote hand striking techniques and hand-eye coordination. Health unit covered illnesses and disease. We learned about different the different pathogens that make us ill, how our bodies fight illness, how illnesses can be treated and what we can do to promote a strong immune system. Our February Physical Education unit will cover basketball skills. The Health unit will cover the different forms of Bullying, how it affects us and conflict resolution techniques to combat bullying.

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

We've had a busy January! All classes from K-6 have been tested in oral reading fluency with the DIBELS assessment. It's always great to see how much improvement has been made since the September assessment! There will also be a third one for all students at the end of the school year. On January 10, all A.T. students from grades 3-6 went to North Hunterdon High School to see a bridge-building competition featuring engineering students from North Hunterdon and Voorhees. It was a great learning as well as social experience for our students! We are following up with a building project of our own - the students are building a free-standing structure that one of the team can fit in completely, using only straws and masking tape. They are displaying some of the strategies they observed in the bridge-building competition! In February, the A.T. students will begin a "Passion

Project", learning about something they are passionate about, making a project, and teaching their fellow students about it.

In Enrichment, grades 4-6 have been learning about entrepreneurship through the TREP\$ program. So far they have learned how to decide on a product, and how to price a product, learning vocabulary such as *revenue*, *expenses*, *profit* and *loss*.

Next we will learn about marketing and advertising. Grades K-3 have been learning about "Our World Family", visiting different places and cultures in various ways.

In Technology, all classes are learning to code on their own level, using the [code.org](http://code.org) curriculum. Although they find some of the activities challenging, they know to persevere and "keep trying". I also encourage them to work together to problem-solve, and to help others with hints. Coding, TREP\$, and "Our World Family" will continue into February.

## **Preschool**

AM: This month we learned about winter, finished our trees unit and started our clothing unit! We made our winter bulletin board and got it hung up! We have been looking at what we are wearing and seeing what colors, shapes and letters are on our clothes. I tried to put on a 4T pair of pants to show the students that they were too small. We have continued learning shapes and letters and started learning the numbers. In February we will continue our clothing unit, learn about groundhogs day, presidents day and valentine's day. We will continue to make our way through the alphabet and through the numbers!

PM: This month we have completed units about winter, snowmen, winter animals, transportation and groundhogs day. We are continuing to make our way through our alphabet and the numbers. In February we will learn about valentines day, groundhog day, camping, the zoo and presidents day.

## **Kindergarten**

In January, we explored what makes up a community and things that can be found in different communities. We decided that we live in a rural area in Lebanon, and identified the differences between suburban, rural and urban. The children created our own community with various buildings found in many communities.

We also learned all about fairness and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and why he is an American hero! The children were astonished that there were laws to separate people. They were thankful that Dr. King helped to change these laws and we can be friends with whoever we want!

Kindergarteners have been reading various fiction and non-fiction texts that discuss how changes affect us. The children are learning the clues of each genre and are able to



identify the genre of our stories. In writing, we are adding details to our sentences and trying to write 2-3 sentences about a topic.

We have also been watching two Bald Eagle eggs at the Duke Farms Eagle Cam. The 1st egg was laid on 1/20 and the 2nd egg on 1/24. The eggs usually incubate for 35 days. We will keep an eye on them to see if you can see them emerge from their eggs!

In math, we learned how to add & subtract and what key words we should listen for, such as, take away or altogether. We are now moving on to building numbers 11-19. This is always a challenge for Kindergartners to remember to put a 1 in front of their numbers when writing 11-19.

### **First Grade**

We are looking forward to the month of February and the new things we will learn! First grade has been learning about the changes that occur in both communities and how children learn and grow. We will continue to discuss changes as we read non fiction texts about pets, and learn about changes in gardens when we read Frog and Toad Together. We continue to work on our reading fluency by practicing poems, reading texts multiple times, and studying word patterns. We've also explored parts of speech like proper nouns and verbs.



In writing, we will continue to “zoom” in on an event to focus on adding details to our writing. In the next couple weeks, we will begin our “How-to” books where the students will write a book describing something they know how to do.

In Math, we've just completed chapter two on using models and objects to subtract. In the next chapter, we will be using models, objects and pictures to add. The students will learn subtraction strategies like counting on, doubles, doubles plus one, and doubles minus one.



We've been incorporating a lot of science and social studies into our guided reading time. We've learned about penguins, community helpers, weather, space, and famous Americans. We look forward to starting our animal research projects soon!

### **Second Grade**

The second grade class is very excited about our class book that we are working to create. We are working on a theme all about nature. They have been writing stories about things in nature that they have explored. Next week we will be adding some poems and descriptive paragraphs about objects in nature.

In reading we are working on a new unit all about creative ideas. In the next few weeks we will read about how creative ideas can lead to inventions. We will read about how people's inventions have made a huge impact on our lives today. We just finished a class read aloud from a novel called: The One and Only Ivan. It is about a gorilla and his friends that live in a shopping mall. It is written about a real gorilla that did live in a shopping mall during the 1960's. When we finished the story we watched some short videos of Ivan in real life and we even got to see him when he was finally moved to the Atlanta Zoo. I also found a children's book version of the story that they can read. The students and I all fell in love with Ivan.

In math the class finished our unit on 2-digit subtraction and we are now beginning our unit on 3-digit addition and subtraction. The class will be learning to regroup hundreds to tens and tens to ones when subtracting 3-digit numbers. In science we are working on a unit about plants. We did an experiment to see which direction grass seed would grow on our “grass head people”. In social studies we are learning



about geography. We are working on maps and landforms in the United States. The class is looking forward to the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school.

### **Third Grade**

This month in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade we spent quality time learning about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We read about his early life and how difficult times as a child helped to steer his adult life. We learned how people can come together to make big changes in rules and laws. Our character education this month focused on fairness and the concept of equality and impartiality, which made for some very good classroom discussions. In reading we have been working in pairs on new chapter books, as well as our shared reading experience learning about amazing birds and their nests. *Did you know a weaver bird knows how to tie real knots with its beak and feet?* We've also spent time learning how to write in the "explanatory" style. Students have shared wonderful "How to..." essays ranging from braiding hair to making a peanut butter sandwich! We have also completed our Dinosaur research for our science Google Slide project. In science students discovered the most dangerous animal in the world isn't a shark or a lion, but... mosquitoes! Students learned that mosquitoes are responsible for spreading diseases like malaria, West Nile, and Zika virus. In our science activity, students applied knowledge about mosquito habitats and life cycles toward preventing mosquitoes in a fictional town. In social studies we are learning about landforms within the USA, as well as climate and weather differences among the states. In math we are flying through our division concepts and strategies because, as we've learned, if you know your multiplication facts, "you get division for FREE!" We've enjoyed this unit and are looking forward to learning all about fractions in February!

### **Fourth Grade**

Fourth graders have been busy conducting research on which President they think was the best and crafting their 5 paragraph persuasive essay. This thesis writing activity is an extension from the book *So You Want to Be President?* where we enjoyed the author comparing and contrasting past presidents. It was a humorous and informative text. Now we are finalizing our essays with some peer editing and will be ready to persuade the world with our arguments. Students researched three main reasons to support their thesis and learned how to craft strong introductions and a conclusion that calls the reader to act. It really is amazing what can be accomplished!

In Math, we are really great at dividing a 3 or 4 digit dividend by a 1 digit divisor. Believe it or not, we ALL agree that it is so fun! We have now completed working on divisibility rules, factors, common factors and multiples as we can apply these skills to real world situations and word problems. It is now fraction time in Fourth Grade! We have already explored how to find equivalent fractions and are really looking forward to learning how to simply as well as convert improper fractions into mixed numbers. It may sound like just Math but it truly is fun - especially when there is a corny song to go along with each skill!

In Science, we have completed our study of Rock with the creation of a plan for a proposed prized house in Landslide City. The students were very willing to think outside the box while we brainstormed and they each come up with a plan to save the won house and the whole fictional town. We are now studying Colonial NJ in Social Studies. We have a fun choice HW project due in February. Some students will be building a label model of a NJ Colonial Farm complete with the tasks of different people on the farm while others will be researching and presenting on how to make items that colonists would have made rather than order from Amazon. All this will lead to our understanding of the unrest in the colonies, the Revolutionary War and NJ's part in it all.

### **Fifth Grade**

It is impossible to believe that the first month of 2020 is over already, and that we are now more than halfway through the fifth grade year! This group proves the adage, "Time flies when having fun!" We have been busy with many exciting activities and topics! In Reading, our story titled "Leonardo's

Horse” was about Renaissance artist, Leonardo da Vinci. Many were surprised to learn that “Da Vinci” is not Leonardo’s last name. It is the name of the town where he was born. His full name means Leonardo of (the town of) Vinci. We learned of his many talents, artwork, and invention ideas. Next, we began reading the novel, *Number the Stars*. This exciting and touching story tells how the people of Denmark helped their Jewish population escape to Sweden in order to avoid being arrested by the Nazis. It is historical fiction, but based on real people and events that occurred during World War II. In Math, we finished our final chapter on decimals, which focused on dividing decimal numbers. We moved on to our next big unit--3 chapters of fractions are on the agenda for the next 2 months! In Social Studies, each student made an “apple mummy”. They carved a face in their apple, poked some holes, and covered it with salt and baking soda. Now we wait for the dehydration to begin. We’ve been very busy in Science too. We became environmental engineers, seawall engineers, levee engineers, and structural engineers in a simulation planning how to protect a beach town from hurricane flooding. We continue to reinforce our character trait of Fairness. We remember that whether we win or lose, we need to do it fairly. Treating each other fairly is a good way to show that we are always “Better Together.”

### **Sixth Grade**

January can sometimes feel like a long month after all the excitement of the holidays...but it also allows us to get a lot accomplished! 6th grade has been working hard on several new units of study. We have covered measurement and and have begun algebra in math. We are covering slavery and the Underground Railroad in reading, and the Fall of Ancient Rome in history, as well as Newton’s Third Law of Motion in science!

Our math unit on converting measurements was particularly challenging. With a little extra time and effort, however, we managed to overcome and even excel on our chapter test. We are already mid-way through our chapter on algebra -- my favorite kind of math! Our next two chapters will continue our adventures in algebra, so it will be all algebra, all the time for February!

Language Arts is also keeping us busy. We began a new novel study, *Elijah of Buxton*, an award winning novel by Christopher Paul Curtis centering on the real life community of Buxton, Canada -- the final destination for many on the Underground Railroad. It is a longer book than our previous novels, so we will continue it into February. In addition to the story itself, we have also been learning about The Missouri Compromise, The Fugitive Slave Act, the role of Quakers in the Abolitionist Movement, and John Brown’s push for slave revolt. It has sparked a number of good discussions in class -- about slavery, about racism, and about our role in making the world a better place.

In history, we have just finished our unit on Rome. We covered the rise of Rome, the Roman Republic, and the Roman Empire. We also managed to compare Roman laws and rights to the U.S. Constitution and consider the influence of Rome on our country today. Toward the end of our unit, we learned about the rise of Christianity and the role of Rome in its spread over time. Lest this sound like a lot of dull reading, much of it was interspersed with Role plays in which the students took on the roles of Roman citizens to overthrow the monarchy to become a republic and later became would-be emperors to try to figure out how to save the Empire from falling. Sadly, like the real emperors of Rome, we failed. But it was fun and noisy trying! Next up: a short introduction to world religions and a trek in Medieval Europe!

Science has also been noisy and active with multiple experiments with force and motion. We spent a couple afternoons throwing medicine balls while sitting on scooters to see if the force of throwing the ball would cause movement. We also blew up balloons, bounced various balls, and worked with a simple slingshot -- all ways that illustrate Newton’s Laws of Motion. It was a lot of fun, and we will continue working with force and motion in February.

### **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)