



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

January 2020

Mr. Arcurio's Corner

Happy New Year! We have entered 2020 and it is going to be another great year of learning and growing in the Lebanon Borough community.

During this time we often reflect upon the successes and struggles of the previous year and resolve to make changes in the year ahead. I would like to encourage everyone to take a different view of this process for 2020. It is certainly worthwhile to review the previous year; however, I would simply ask that we encourage our children to form habits that will lead to success. If each child identifies and actualizes three habits that can increase success in any meaningful areas of their lives they will be on a solid road to personal growth.

Sometimes we look for perfection at this time of year when we should be encouraging and celebrating progress. As parents we are always looking for information to help us in the difficult job of raising children. As I mentioned above, we need to focus on progress, not perfection. I encourage everyone to check out some of the resources on [Cybraryman.com's](http://www.cybraryman.com) (www.cybraryman.com) website related to [Learning From Mistakes](https://cybraryman.com/learningfrommistakes.html)

(<https://cybraryman.com/learningfrommistakes.html>). There are some wonderful articles, videos, and TEDtalks that provide ideas and strategies for supporting children so that they develop resilience in the face of adversity. This is a lesson from which can all benefit.

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio - Lead Learner/Superintendent

Please remember that the PTA is holding a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Friday, January 17th from 6-8pm at LBS to benefit Jade and Lori Abitbol. If you wish to participate in planning the event, please attend the PTA meeting at 7pm on Monday, January 6, 2020.

Important Dates

Jan 6	PTA Meeting 7pm
Jan 7	BOE Meeting 6pm
Jan 17	Early Dismissal (Inservice)
Jan 17	Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser 6-8pm
Jan 20	School Closed MLK
Jan 22	PTA Pizza Lunch

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
- 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: For the months of January and February, the student's focus will be on the character trait of Fairness.

Students will work on treating individuals equally, regardless of their ideas, opinions or moral standards.

Nurses News: Cold vs. Flu: Please take a moment to review the symptoms of colds and flu at

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/coldflu.htm>. Students must stay home for 24 hours after a fever of 100 or greater. They may return to school once they are fever-free without the use of a fever reducing medication such as Tylenol, Advil or Motrin.

Do not hesitate to contact your health care provider with concerns if your child becomes ill.

*We usually don't think to drink water during the winter but we still need to make sure we get plenty of fluids. Staying hydrated can help you prevent illness and stay healthy. Encourage your child to drink water throughout the day. Also use lip balm regularly. A subtle sign of dehydration includes dry, chapped lips.



Art

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a wonderful winter break! Our artists finished off 2019 with wonderful artwork, and are ready to head into the next decade with imagination and creativity! Kindergarten explored shape and color in abstract faces, strengthening their spatial skills and composition building. First grade completed their Matisse "Goldfish" renditions, concentrating on improving their artistic craftsmanship and refined use of materials. Second grade began illustrating the tree and animal silhouette on top of their watercolor sunset. The silhouettes will be completed using sharpee and black acrylic paint, again requiring a concentrated effort towards craftsmanship and

attention to detail. Third grade completed their original dessert composition based on the work of Wayne Thiebaud, and filled the delicious illustrations with color using oil pastels and watercolor paint. Fourth grade experienced kinesthetic techniques techniques using ripped paper and chalk to recreate the magical ambiance of the Aurora Borealis (northern lights). Fifth grade developed and completed their original Haring inspired artworks, creating worlds of details and emphasis with fun characters and details. Sixth grade stretched their creative minds to create tremendous abstract compositions with wonderful negative space and texture by cutting up and rearranging the paintings of their names. All students also created a final winter artwork of the year with vibrant wreaths and evergreen branches using layers of tempera sticks. 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

The students of LBS put on an amazing performance of *December in Our Town* last month! I was so incredibly proud of everyone and it was so nice to see the amount of support from family and friends in the audience! Leading up to the performance, students worked to perfect their melodies, harmonies, choreography, and more during rehearsals. Students were frequently asked to evaluate their performances using their new music vocabulary words and discussed ways to improve their performance when needed. Emphasis was placed on tone, balance, dynamics, rhythm, intonation, and diction.

The beginner band expanded their range and can now play their 5-note scale and exercises which vary the order and combination of these pitches. The percussion students have also learned their first few rudiments. We are now able to play a large variety of melodies with our new knowledge.

Our 5th and 6th grade band members also played beautifully in their December performance of "Power Rock" and "The Little Drummer Boy." During lessons, we also began discussing key signatures and their related scales. We will be continuing scale work during January in order to expand our range and reading knowledge.

Now that we are back from vacation, we are excited to start our new unit in general music called "Mallet Madness" which uses various percussion arrangements to teach notation, rhythm, counter rhythms, melody, timbre, improvisation, text painting, accompaniments, ostinatos, and much more. In addition to mallet madness, the 3rd graders will start their recorder unit which they are all very anxious to begin!

Physical Education/Health

This past December in Physical Education, Pre-K continued practicing motor skills and cooperative play. K-6th grade began working on hand striking fundamentals with balloons and beach balls. Health classes for K-6th focused on our feelings, the feelings of others, self confidence\value, self control and conflict resolution. We made emoji masks to represent the emotions that we like, may feel or encounter. Since the month was short due to the holiday break and recital practice dates, K-6th grade will continue with hand striking games and activities through January. Pre-K will also get some play time with balloons added to their motor skills activities. Health classes will deal with illnesses, what makes us ill, how we treat illnesses and how our bodies fight illness. Happy 2020!!



Technology, Enrichment, A.T., SSS

We started the month of December participating in the International Hour of Code in all classes. For the next two weeks we continued coding using coding websites and apps to practice coding in a fun way. Some of the apps/websites we used were code.org, *SpriteBox*, *Code-a-pillar*, *Kodable*, and *Scratch Jr.*. In January, we will use the curriculum presented by code.org for each specific grade, and go into more in-depth lessons. Students will learn the following vocabulary and concepts: sequence,

BETTER TOGETHER!

command, code, program, algorithm, bugs and de-bugging, conditionals, loops, and functions. In January, grades 4-6 will begin the TREP\$ Program: Empowering Kids through EnTREPpreneurship, in Enrichment class. More information about this program will be forthcoming. The TREP\$ Marketplace is tentatively scheduled for the evening of April 7.

In A.T., we will be visiting North Hunterdon High School's Engineering Department's Bridge Building Competition on January 10. Then we will make our own free-standing structures in pairs, with the condition that one person has to fit completely within the free-standing structure. After that, we will spend several weeks on a "Passion Project" that will be presented to the rest of the group.

Grades K-3 will be learning about Our World Family and Homes Around the World, also building structures out of different materials such as Lincoln Logs, Legos, and Tinker Toys.

Preschool

AM:

Happy New Year! December was a very busy month we have learned the letter up to k, we learned about a Diamond, triangle, star and how to describe them by their sides and corners. We continued to learn about trees and what different trees produce or us (flowers, fruit, oxygen) and what they provide for animals (food, shelter), we also looked at how trees grow and how we grow. We took a break from our trees unit to learn about gingerbread and the many holidays happening this time of year. We made our own gingerbread with cinnamon, applesauce and glue! In January we will learn about winter, and start our clothing unit!

PM:

Happy New Year! December was a very busy month we have learned the letter sounds up to K, how to write numbers up to 4. We have learned about hibernation, gingerbread and the many holidays this time of year. We made a bear hunt map, made gingerbread people and cracked some hidden codes! We have also worked on lowercase letter identification, colored a hidden picture, and we have practiced addition! We worked really hard to get ready for our winter show and everyone did an amazing job! In January we will have units about winter, snowmen, winter animals, transportation and groundhogs day!

Kindergarten

During the month of December the Kindergartners have been comparing and contrasting over 15 different gingerbread stories! We also were eagerly awaiting to hear from our gingerbread penpals. We received 19 of the 24 from around the USA! We sent 24 gingerbread pals and letters about Lebanon, NJ. We learned all about different states, for example: kids in the midwest get a ton of snow and play in the snow at recess! The children really enjoyed learning about our pen pals and meeting the ginger friend they made for us. We hope to get our missing 5 soon!

We also traveled around the world to learn how do people celebrate holidays around the world: Mexico-Las Posadas, Germany, Italy, Australia, Canada & US-Christmas, Sweden-St. Lucia Day, India-Diwali, Israel-Hanukkah, US-Kwanzaa. After learning about these holidays we compared and contrasted the holidays. We decided that lights play an important part of all of these holidays around the world and that there are many similarities between the different holidays around the world. Some of the traditions the children would like to start celebrating here, like making decorative rangoli at the entrances to their houses with colorful sand or rice as they do in India for Diwali. They especially loved learning about how it is summer time for Christmas in Australia!

In math we explored addition and adding of groups together. We mastered addition and in the new year we will be working to understanding subtraction.



First Grade

First grade has had a great start to 2020! In math, we are working on subtraction strategies like using pictures and models to subtract. In the weeks to come, the students will explore addition and subtraction relationships. We will also be using strategies like counting forward and backward on a number line, and using a ten frame to add and subtract.

During writer's workshop, we will still use a three step process to write personal narratives. In December, we've learned that good writers think, draw, and then write. We've discussed the importance of having a beginning, middle and end to our writing. In January, the students will learn how to revise their writing to add details and dialogue.

Reader's workshop and guided reading groups is back in full swing. We continue to practice our reading strategies and work on word attack skills. We will continue to work on our reading fluency by reading with appropriate expression, rate and by rereading texts. New spelling words with specific spelling patterns continue to go home every week.

The students really enjoyed our Holidays Around the World Unit. In the weeks to come, students will learn about space in our unit The Spinning Sky. After this unit, each student will also do a research project on an animal that they choose. We're looking forward to a great beginning of a new year!



Second Grade

The second grade students have been learning about how support from others helps with creative ideas. We have been reading stories and writing about this theme. The class will begin writing a folktale this week. We are also working on the skill of compare and contrast. We are also getting ready to begin working on our class book writing.

In math the class has completed the chapter on 2-digit addition. We are now reviewing what we learned and getting ready to begin a chapter on 2-digit subtraction. Our next few chapters will include 3-digit addition and subtraction. In the next few

months they will also learn to regroup with zeros.

In science we are currently working on a unit about plants. We are discussing the different ways that seeds travel and how far they are able to go. Students will also learn how plants adapt to meet their needs. In social studies the class is getting ready to begin a unit on map skills.

Third Grade

3rd Grade enjoyed many holiday related activities this month from learning how to do the "Winter Pokey" to creating our annual snow-person craft. We also wrote "hot chocolate" cinquain (SIN-cain) poems, which are unrhymed poems consisting of five lines and arranged in a special way. Because of the exact number of words required for each line in this poem, we create a diamond-like shape from interesting and descriptive words. During our ELA Daily Five time we engaged in partner reading activities that helped us understand who the "49ers" were and the significance of this time in US history. We also read an animal fantasy story called, Tops and Bottoms by J. Stevens. We learned that a plot can be very tricky, and to follow along we need to ask a lot of questions to aid our comprehension. We are also learning how to analyze the relationship between the character's traits and story events to determine the lesson in the text. In math we continue to use the properties of multiplication to solve multi-step word problems, and we are excited to begin learning all about division in the New Year. In science we continue with our "Animals Through Time" lessons. We learned how the earliest dogs were medium-sized and wolf-like, but by using selective breeding, humans managed to get many different dog breeds, *hundreds even!* We will also complete our dinosaur research this month by using multiple online sources. Students are learning how to add text to Google Slides, bullet text, and use graphics.

Students will soon be able to present their work in an engaging way. In social studies we are learning how to read different styled maps. We are also learning about relative versus exact locations and using latitude and longitude lines to locate many places around the world. We look forward to a wonderful New Year filled with exciting new challenges!

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is diving into the new year! In ELA, we finished the year reading the novel *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* where we studied characters and how they changed and developed. We worked on using context clues for determining unknown words and were able to analyze how point of view changes a story. We also read many challenging passages and articles about various December traditions around the world. We were able to gather information from more than one source and use video and audio to enhance our knowledge gained on particular tradition. From here, students worked hard on their presentation and public speaking skills for each student presented a holiday tradition important to them at our Tradition Celebration. Here students enhanced their sharing with sensory details, which had been practiced in their writing this month on their opinion piece about the best tradition ever that they do. It was so special to hear from each student as they shared with the rest of us. All this work will lead us into January where we will work on creating a thesis statement and supporting it with ideas in our writing. Fourth graders are becoming quite sophisticated! In Math students used repeated subtraction and then the standard algorithm/long division to divide by a 1 digit divisor. As promised, the students are finding it so fun especially since now they are feeling like they have mastered the skill! We will continue practicing and begin working with multiples and factors before heading full force into working with fractions! In Science we have started a unit on rocks which includes us solving mysteries such as: can a volcano pop up in Hunterdon County, and how can we avoid a landslide.

Fifth Grade

Happy 2020! I hope everyone enjoyed time with family during our winter break! Our fifth graders started the new year by making some resolutions and setting personal goals. In our first few days back, we are finishing our math chapter on dividing decimal numbers. After our chapter assessment, we will begin our unit on Fractions. At the fifth grade level, we expand upon 4th grade curriculum by working with unlike denominators, as well as mixed numbers and improper fractions. In reading, we are beginning Unit 3, which features reading selections about artists and inventors. Our reading selections include a fascinating story about Leonardo Da Vinci. Da Vinci began a work of art that he was passionate about, and was not able to complete it before he died. Ask your fifth grader to tell you more about “Leonardo’s Horse”. Another reading selection is about a man who had the job of studying the first dinosaur fossils ever found, and creating life sized models to show the world what these creatures looked like. Our grammar topics for the unit include verbs, verb tenses, principal parts of verbs, as well as prepositions and prepositional phrases. In Social Studies, we have begun our study of ancient Egypt. Our first project will be painting poster-sized maps of the region, including the Nile River, Nile River Delta, and showing the locations of important cities and landmarks such as the Pyramids of Giza. In science, we are learning about underground sources of fresh water called aquifers, and how vital they are for a successful community. Our character trait for January and February is Fairness and we will be examining what we can do individually to ensure we treat everyone fairly at school, at home, and in the community.

Sixth Grade

December was a whirl of activity in 6th grade! We began our run-up to the Winter Concert in earnest with added music classes, band practices and several whole school rehearsals! Our 6th graders showed immense effort and dedication to the process in their roles on center stage while our new music teacher made it a terrific learning experience. The result was tremendous and I was very proud of their performance on December 12.

Despite this added activity, the 6th graders still managed to complete a literature study on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, as well as another math chapter. We have also nearly completed our life sciences unit, which we will cap off in January with owl pellet dissection (energy transfer through organisms) and an ecosystem/biome research project. We will also be continuing our social studies unit Ancient Rome and a new literature study designed to coincide with Black History Month! It looks like January will be another busy month in 6th grade!

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

and follow us on Twitter at

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



Happy New Year for the LBS staff!