



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

March 2021

Mr. Arcurio's Corner

Can you believe that it is March? This year has been moving along at a quick pace and we have four months left. This has been a year filled with a unique version of schooling. I look forward to the following months as the weather begins to warm and the children prepare to move up!

March 1-5 is Read Across America and your children will be participating in various reading activities in their classrooms throughout the month. I encourage you to take some time to read with them that evening (and any evening) as it is your guidance and example that sets the tone for their reading success throughout school. Check out

<https://www.readingrockets.org/audience> for some great ideas and resources for reading with your children and assisting them with their reading. Also, remember that [we are having a spirit week and the themes can be found on this flyer](#). Let's make this a great reading month for all the families in Lebanon Borough!

Last month we celebrated Black History Month and as you may know, March is Women's History Month. The public celebration of women's history in this country began in 1978 as "Women's History Week" in Sonoma County, California. In 1981, Rep. Barbara Mikulski and Sen. Orrin Hatch co-sponsored a joint Congressional resolution proclaiming a national Women's History Week during the week of March 8th. In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to a month, and March was declared Women's History Month. I encourage everyone to reflect with the children upon the many accomplishments of women in our society.

It is with great honor to announce that Lebanon Borough School received Safe Routes to School Award during February! This award is given to schools in New Jersey who walk/bicycle safely to school. The Lebanon

Borough School's webpage will proudly display the SRTS Logo/Badge! Congratulations Lebanon Borough School! I would like to thank Mrs. Dulovich for her work with this organization over the years to help us achieve this milestone!

Important Dates	
Mar 4	BOE Mtg - 6:30 PM
Mar 1-5	Read Across America
Mar 8	PTA Mtg - 6:30 PM
Mar 15	School Closed - Full Day
Teacher Inservice	
Mar 16	Start of 2nd Trimester
Mar 19	Report Cards Emailed

2020 Recognition



**Registration Information
for
Preschool
&
Kindergarten
can be obtained at the
main office, at
www.lebanonschool.org,
or by calling:
(908) 236-2448**

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio - Lead Learner/Superintendent

Office Items

In-person students - “calling out virtual”

I re-sent this to parents on Friday with the added red bullet at the end. Please refer to it if parents ask you questions about “calling a child out virtual.” You are welcome to copy and paste it to your parents and say, “this was the guidance from Mr. Arcurio.”

Remote Days for In-Person Students

- Please remember that students who have opted for in-person/hybrid learning this trimester are expected to be in-person each day unless they are ill or required to be excluded from school due to close contact.
- At times we have had people choose virtual learning because a child woke up late or some other non-illness related reason. These are not acceptable reasons for participating in virtual learning and may be counted as absences.
- ***If a child is absent from in-person learning under our current guidelines, the nurse will call the home to determine the nature of the illness and advise as to how long a student should remain excluded from school.***
- **If a child is “called out” virtual without an illness reason they will be marked absent even if they participate in virtual learning. We will allow them to participate; however, they cannot be marked present unless there is a valid reason. Extended illnesses or injuries require a note from a physician as always.**

LBS Daily Pre-screening Checklist

Thank you again for continuing to use [the pre-screening form](#) so we can monitor any potential COVID-19 cases or anyone with symptoms.

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 visit the registration website at: [YMCA Before/After Care Registration](#)

Health Office...

Bully Free Zone: As we end our character trait of Fairness, we look forward to the March character trait of Responsibility. Responsibility means one acts in a mature manner and is prepared for any consequences both positive and negative.

Nurse's News: Dear parents, thank you for your cooperation in screening your children daily and keeping me informed. Thank you for doing your part in keeping our students and staff safe and healthy during this pandemic. As a reminder if you (or any family member) is ill with Covid-like symptoms, please keep your child home until you can be evaluated by your medical provider. Your adherence to social distancing, hand washing, screening and wearing masks has been greatly appreciated.

MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

Eating for a healthy weight is not about going on (and off) the latest diet. The best way to achieve- and maintain- a healthy weight is to make small changes that you are willing to do forever. These six smart eating habits help you reach your health goals.

Eat Early. Kick-start the day with a power breakfast. Start with protein, add a whole grain and finish off with a fruit.

Eat Regularly. Snack smart to curb the munchies. Letting yourself get too hungry can lead to overeating.

Eat Bright. Fight disease with a rainbow of produce. Colorful fruits and vegetables help fight cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure and the effects of aging.

Eat Whole. Enjoy nutrient combos in whole foods. Nature does an amazing job of putting nutrients together, ie. whole grains, dairy and lean beef.

Eat Strong. Put some protein in every meal and snack. Protein leads to feelings of fullness and satisfaction.

Eat Half. Re-size super portions to fit your needs. Many servings are two or four times what your body needs or wants.

*For more info go to www.choosemyplate.gov or www.EatRight.org.



Art

Hello from the Art Room! While the month may have been a shorter one, we had an incredible amount of creativity and fun! We started off lovely February with a variety of Valentine's day activities and illustrations, including learning about artist Romero Britto and one of his many infamous drawings, the "Flying Heart". We also read a book by the loved character Pete the Cat and drew our very own Pete the cat style cat doing all sorts of fun things in a snowy landscape! Next we discovered the amazing artist Lois Mailou Jones and learned all about



her incredible career as an artist and educator. We observed many of her artworks identifying her unique use of color, shape, pattern and composition to express the traditional styles of African and Haitian art and culture. We then created our own Lois Mailou Jones inspired artwork and the artworks are breathtaking. Together we celebrated another holiday this month, the Chinese New Year! We learned all about the Chinese zodiac and the story of the Great Race. Together we drew an image of an Ox to celebrate this year being the Year of the Ox! Next we will discover the art element of space by learning about perspective both in life and art. We will use the concept of a vanishing point to turn ordinary two dimensional shapes into exciting three dimensional forms that appear to be bursting right off our page!

I would like to give a very BIG thank you to all our families for helping, supporting and encouraging our artists this year. Our live classes have been such a success and our art program continues to thrive! It is every teacher's biggest fear that the students' academic experience will be hindered by the circumstances we have been facing, but I am beyond happy by how well our artists' creativity and imaginations have developed and their artistic skills have grown! Without their consistent weekly attendance this would not have been possible so for that I truly appreciate and thank you!

As we continue through the school year, please be sure to keep your artist's work in a safe place. In the upcoming months I am going to request that photos be sent in once again for a school wide virtual art show! There is no limit to the number of art works that a student can submit. Also don't forget that our Artsonia portal is up and running! If you have any questions please feel free to email me at any time.



Music

During February, we studied Scott Joplin as our Composer of the Month to help celebrate Black History Month. We learned about the special struggles for success that Joplin had due to his race and how he was able to overcome these challenges. We focused on his contribution to ragtime music and how that style led to jazz. The classes listened to some of his famous compositions including "Maple Leaf Rag", "The Entertainer," and "Fig Leaf Rag." While listening to his music, we learned about form and created our own play-alongs following the form of "Fig Leaf Rag."

The lower grades continued their unit on the instrument families. We have been emphasizing the size-pitch relationship, which instruments belong to each family, and how sound is created on each instrument. We focused on the brass and percussion families this month and learned how to create homemade instruments that work in the same way that a real instrument in those families would work to create musical sounds. The upper grades composed their own 16-bar rhythm compositions and then performed them on FlipGrid. This project will later be turned into a pentatonic composition. I'm very excited to hear how all of those turn out later this year.

Band members have been working a lot on sight-reading skills and also preparing their music for performances. We have been evaluating our own performances to find strengths and weaknesses and then plan our lessons and practice sessions accordingly. Developing successful practice strategies and being able to self-critique are such important parts of our growth as musicians. The 4th-grade band members will be working on their first virtual band performance very soon.

Physical Education/Health

This February in Physical Education our main focus was hand striking activities such as volleyball and other at home activities that tested our hand-eye coordination. Our younger grades got a taste of this with balloon activities in school and virtually. Everyone continued to work on their locomotor and fitness skills as well. Health classes for K-3rd grades focused on the different stages of growth and development for humans and other creatures as a comparison. We also touched on body part functions and dental health, as February is Dental Health month. Grades 4-6th focused on legal and illegal drugs, their effects, their hazards and strategies to help us make informed, healthy decisions regarding drug experimentation. All classes learned about famous athletes of color for Black History month. For the month of March PE will focus on striking with an implement. Students will learn fundamental use of hockey sticks, tennis rackets and more. Activities will be performed to verify safe and correct use. For Health students will learn more about the internal parts of the body and their functions. This will include organs, the muscle and skeletal system. All classes will review our character trait for the month, Responsibility.



Spanish

¡Hola from the Spanish Room! We are having the BEST time in Spanish class! All the kids are doing such a great job engaging and interacting with Spanish in such cool ways! Grades K-2 have been singing along to songs about the Spanish alphabet, the months of the year, and the colors as well as learning new Spanish vocabulary. We have also been practicing writing letters and matching pictures with words. In grades 3-6, we have been spending at least half our class time speaking only in Spanish, and I am impressed at how much they have picked up already. We have been practicing describing objects by color and name, and we have met a character named Billy la Bufanda (Billy the Scarf) who is clearly already a student favorite. Students in grades 3-6 can visit with Billy whenever they want by logging into their Senor Woolly accounts (senorwooly.com) and enjoying some fun Spanish activities. It is clear from my first few months here that LBS students have a real love of learning, and I am looking forward to seeing how much we can progress from here. ¡Hasta luego!



Enrichment & A.T

Enrichment

Students honored Black History month with investigation and exploration of some famous people in our history. Third and fourth graders were able to verbally present what they learned using flipgrid while some of our older students prepared a children's book on one special person using Google slides. Fourth graders are preparing their own children's book using Google slides on the Lenape and their learnings in social studies. We've continued our work with coding, focusing on sequencing and conditions even in our youngest grades. Kindergartners are great at it! With this knowledge we have been creating our own mazes using sequencing and conditions. The coolest part is that our classmates can then go try and solve ours! Moving forward in March, we will be learning about some wonderful women for Women's History month while also celebrating Read Across America! Our whole school will be taking on a March Reading Challenge and it should be a whole lot fun!

A/T

Our students in A/T have been busy researching, writing, and preparing for our class debate. We will kick off March having our debate and we are ready for any and all rebuttals! We are debating the big question after our space unit of whether or not there is alien life form out there somewhere?!



Preschool

In February we learned about fairness, including everyone, sharing and taking turns with toys and centers. We included everyone in our valentines celebration! The Preschoolers

have been doing a fantastic job adjusting to being in school and being virtual due to snow! This month we have continued our clothing unit, talking about shapes and colors on our clothes and being fashion designers to decorate a shirt. We also learned about Valentines Day, letters F, R, N, E and we celebrated the 100th day of school! We finished learning numbers 1-10 and are reviewing them now. In March we will continue learning our letters, reviewing our numbers, we will learn about Dr. Seuss, spring and finish our clothing unit!



Kindergarten

Kindergarteners have been reading and identifying various fiction and non-fiction texts. 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 been learning about our presidents- George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and Black History Heroes in social studies. For Black History Month we have learned about Jesse Owens- 1st Olympic medalist, Ruby Bridges, Mae Jemison- 1st women astronaut, and Sarah E. Goode- 1st Woman to be granted a patent for a foldable bed.

We have been eagerly watching the Eagle's Nest at Duke Farms, we expect to see the three eaglets anyday! They have reached their 35 day incubation period. We also learned about what some animals do in the winter. Some are out and about, some hibernate or they migrate to warmer areas. Since we had so much snow here in February, it allowed the children to look for tracks in the snow of our local animals!

This month we celebrated Groundhog Day, the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day.

In math, we are practicing our math facts regularly, counting to the current day of school, and becoming expert detectives at telling if a word problem is addition or subtraction by listening for key words.

The children are becoming little readers and writers and it is amazing to watch the transformation daily! Keep up the fabulous work boys and girls! The Kindergartners have been so resilient throughout all these crazy days and roll with whatever I throw at them, I am so proud of them! Also a HUGE thank you to their teaching assistants at home!

First Grade

First grade has been very busy! We had a great time celebrating Valentine's Day, 100th Day, and learning about some amazing Black Americans! In Social studies, we've learned about Jackie Robinson and Harriet Tubman. We're looking forward to learning about Booker T. Washington and Sojourner Truth. In Science, we've continued to learn about animals, their habitats, and their adaptations.

During reading, we've resumed our Engaging Readers notebook. We enjoyed reading *Roses are Pink*, *Your Feet Really Stink*, and *Hooway for Wodney Wat*. The students continue to practice reading skills like making predictions and inferences, and making connections to their own lives. We've also learned how to visualize the story in our minds just by reading the words. We will take a break next week to focus on the many stories we love in honor of Read Across America Week. The students continue to apply learned reading strategies during our Reader's Workshop time.

In math, the students are learning how to solve "How many more" and "How many fewer"

Problems by drawing pictures and models, and writing equations to match the problem. In the weeks to come, the students will learn to interpret and represent data using picture graphs, bar graphs, and tally charts. We are very excited for March and the many new things to learn!



Second Grade

It is nice to be back in the classroom and working with all of my second graders. I am enjoying getting to know the students. Our first day together was a virtual snow day. We read a book about a snowflake and then wrote, on a snowflake, about what makes us unique. I enjoyed reading those assignments and getting to know a little bit about them. We also celebrated the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day together.



We recently read some stories about Abraham Lincoln and discussed ways that he worked to help our country. We are currently working on biographies. The students have been listening to many

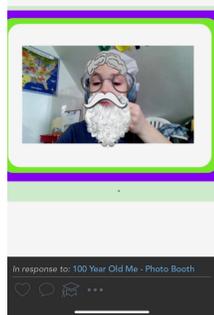
biographies in class. We are reading Wilma Unlimited by Kathleen Krull, which is the biography of Wilma Rudolph. The class has been inspired by her story. They have asked to watch the short video clip of her running in the Olympics a few times! We love her story! The class was also assigned a biography on their level about a famous person. They have been taking notes and are writing a short biography about that person. They are currently working to create a final draft and import images into their Google writing document.

In math the class has been learning many strategies for adding 2-digit numbers. They recently completed their modules on money and time. We will continue to learn more strategies including regrouping to add.

In science we recently started a unit called: "Works of Water". The class created a model to learn why a river flows. We will be learning about erosion and how water changes land.

In social studies we have been studying many different people and learning about the changes that they have made to make our country stronger. These stories are helping us with our biography study as well as learn more about Black History.

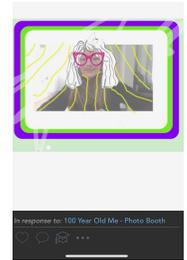
Next week, we will be working on various activities to celebrate "Read Across America" week. We will begin a March reading challenge! This and many of our activities for "Read Across America" will be school wide events.



Third Grade

3rd Graders are officially 100 days stronger and wiser! We celebrated the **100th Day of School** with a few fun activities, like wondering what we would do with \$100 and how many motion activities we could do in 100 seconds! We also wrote Valentine's Day poems to ourselves that will hang on beautiful winter birds in the classroom. We also wrote hysterical robot-the love-bot stories that were quite imaginative. In math we just completed our multiplication/division chapters and are onto estimating and adding with the expanded form. Soon we will begin deeper learning into subtraction.

In science we are learning all about the "Power of Flowers". We have been excited to learn what fruits and vegetables have changed over the last 400 years because of selection of various traits. In social studies and in reading we learned about the Underground Railroad and the "Freedom Seekers" that helped shape our country's history. As the students learned this week, Black History is American History, and we celebrate special people who in the face of tremendous danger, pursued truth and justice.



Fourth Grade

In the month of February, we continued our learning in Reading Street. We read the stories The Man Who Named the Clouds, Adelina's Whales, How Night Came from the Sun, and Eye of the Storm. In these stories, we practiced the skills- graphic sources, fact and opinion, generalizing, and cause and effect. In March, we will read the story of Paul Bunyan and practice generalizing again. We will also be starting the Novel Charlotte's Web.

We will complete a novel study with different skills to practice, questions, and activities.

In Social Studies, we have learned about the Lenape people of New Jersey. We have read about them, answered questions, watched videos, and completed a technology activity with all of our learned knowledge. In March, we will be moving back to Science. We will be learning about the rock cycle, volcanoes, and erosion.

In Math, we have completed module 8, which involved learning multiple strategies to multiply two digit by two digit numbers. In March, we will be moving into Module 9, which is learning about the area of shapes.

Fifth Grade

What a snowy February we had this year! I imagine many of us are looking forward to turning the page to March and approaching Spring! It's truly hard to believe it's been almost a year since the pandemic changed our routines so much! We keep moving forward and doing new things and enjoying our time together despite the challenges! February was Black History month, and while recognizing some important and familiar people, we learned about some of the many, many other interesting and accomplished African-Americans and their contributions. Perhaps your student can tell you something about Mae Jemison, Katherine Johnson, and Garrett Morgan. We also celebrated the 100th day of the school year, which for 5th graders also happens to be the 1000th day of school for

them since kindergarten! In ELA, we completed and LOVED the novel *Number the Stars*, and also read a story about a boy named Wes, who creates his own fantasy perfect world in his backyard, which he names Weslandia. The students have just begun a writing project in which they create their own perfect world. I can't wait to read them! In math, we just completed Module 7, which was all about adding and subtracting mixed numbers. We are now beginning to learn about multiplying fractions. In science, we are in the middle of our unit titled, "Spaceship Earth", and we've learned about how the rotation and tilt of the earth is what causes day and night, and why the sun seems to rise and set each day. We learned about the earliest clocks used by ancient people, and we made our own sundial clock to tell time. This ties in nicely with our study of ancient civilizations in social studies. We are almost finished with our study of the fascinating ancient Egyptians, and next up is the Indus River Valley civilization (ancient India).

Sixth Grade

For a short month with multiple snow days (8 and counting), 6th grade has accomplished a lot.

We have completed our novel, *Elijah of Buxton*, tying together the threads of the Underground Railroad, slavery and freedom with the coming of age of the title character, Elijah. The story started slowly, but by the end of the book, everyone was invested in the story of Elijah and Mr. Leroy and the people Elijah discovers in a barn. Ask your student about it! We have now started prep work for our next novel (which everyone is VERY excited about), *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*.

Our new chapter in math is more of the same. We have finished our first algebra chapter and started on the second this month. In March we will continue to learn more about the intricacies of algebra. We may also get to a chapter on data collection and displays...something that will tie closely with work we are already completing in science.

Which leads us to -- science! We have completed learning about reproduction and are now exploring ideas about the ecosystem, biomes and how organisms work together (or not!) in these places. Each 6th grader researched a specific biome about which they wrote a three-page report and are (should be) creating a three dimensional model about their biome to display in the school foyer. We also began working on a unit about forces and motion, which should carry us through March. This unit entails some pretty active experiments which are both messy and fun.

In history, we have finished Ancient Rome and begun learning about the major religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Understanding these three religions will help the students better understand our next unit on Medieval Europe, as well as many current events happening today.

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! You can complete the membership form online at this link: [2020-2021 PTA Membership Form](#). The PTA accepts checks and Venmo for payment.

