



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

April, 2026

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

Investing in Our Future While Managing the Present

At Lebanon Borough School, we often say that we are **"Better Together!"** As we transition into spring, that spirit is more visible than ever. Our students are working incredibly hard in their classrooms, tackling rigorous math problems, diving deep into reading, and developing critical thinking skills. Alongside this strong academic focus, our young artists are exploring the vibrant styles of Kandinsky and Keith Haring, while our Character Building and outdoor initiatives teach essential life skills and healthy habits.

Our school is the heart of this community. It is a place where every child is known by name, and where we provide a top-tier education in a safe, inclusive environment.

You can see this vibrant school culture in action very soon! Our students are currently busy practicing for our upcoming musical, *Seussical Kids*. We warmly invite the entire Lebanon Borough community to join us for the performance on **Thursday, May 28th, at 6:30 PM.**

As your Superintendent, my mission is to protect this high standard of education while remaining a responsible steward of your tax dollars. To that end, I want to share the details of our proposed 2026/2027 school budget, which includes a **3.9% local tax levy increase.**

Important Dates	
Apr 3-12	Spring Break
Apr 13	PTA Meeting 6:30pm
Apr 15	Walking School Bus 8am
May 6-7 5th	Grade NJSLA Science
May 11-15	NJSLA-Adaptive ELA/Math
May 18-21	NJSLA - Make-ups
May 22&25	School Closed - Memorial Day Weekend
May 28	Spring Concert/Show

A Balancing Act: Rising Pressures and Strategic Savings

On the surface, our total school budget is remarkably stable, with an overall increase of just **0.23%** over last year. However, this "flat" topline number masks significant, unavoidable cost pressures that we must navigate to keep our school running at its best:

- **Health Benefit Costs:** We are facing a staggering **31.9% jump** in health benefit premiums.
- **Modern Curriculum:** Our English, math, and social studies materials have reached the end of their natural cycle and must be updated over the next three years to ensure our students have the modern resources they need to thrive.
- **Inflationary Expenses:** Energy costs are climbing by approximately **6%**, alongside rising shipping and operational costs.

At Lebanon Borough School, we believe we are Better Together as we work to help every child reach their full potential. We value each student's unique abilities and foster both academic growth and independent, critical thinking. Through strong partnerships among students, staff, families, and the community, and with programs and curriculum aligned with New Jersey's standards, we equip students with the skills and tools they need to succeed

To counteract these pressures, our district has been incredibly proactive. Our most significant win is our **10-year send/receive agreement for our middle school students**. This strategic partnership is projected to save the district over **\$1.8 million** over the next decade, with nearly **\$131,000** in savings realized in this upcoming 2026/2027 budget year alone.

Why the 3.9% Increase is Necessary

While we have worked hard to find savings, a gap remains if we want to maintain the quality of our academic and extracurricular programs. By law, due to various waivers, the district could have legally raised the tax levy by up to 11.74% without voter approval. Instead, we are proposing a much more restrained **3.9% increase to \$3,170,752**.

For the average Lebanon Borough home valued at \$500,000, this 3.9% increase amounts to an additional **\$168 per year**—or approximately **\$0.46 per day**. To put this in perspective, it is less than the cost of a single cup of coffee a week.

Planning for the Long Term

History has shown us that small, incremental increases are necessary to prevent much larger, more painful budget deficits down the road. This planned investment ensures we don't have to make drastic cuts to the teachers, materials, and programs that make Lebanon Borough School so special.

When parents, teachers, and residents work together, we create the best possible environment for our children. I encourage you to visit our website to learn more about our budget and explore the wonderful things happening in our classrooms every day. **We hope to see you on May 5th for the Budget Hearing at the BOE Meeting (6:30 PM) and on May 28th for the show (6:30 PM)!**

Better Together,
Bruce R. Arcurio, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Field Trip News

On Thursday, March 12, the students in grades three, four, five, and six enjoyed a MESEMERIZING experience at The Growing Stage-The Children's Theatre of New Jersey. The audience was delighted by the performance of *MESMERIZED: A Ben Franklin Science and History Mystery*. This play was adapted for the stage by Suzanne Maynard Miller



from the original book *Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery That Baffled All of France* by Mara Rockliff. The fast-paced, entertaining play highlighted the scientific breakthroughs, philosophies, talents, curiosity, diplomacy, writing, and IMAGINATION of the remarkable Ben Franklin. The cast of six did a remarkable job weaving so many of Ben Franklin's stories, inventions, ideas, international relations, and the scientific method into a phenomenal performance enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the PTA for assisting in subsidizing our cultural and educational experiences at LBS!



Health Office...

Bully-Free Zone: The past month the character trait was Responsibility. The students focused on perseverance, self-discipline, and being accountable. They also considered their actions and the consequences of those actions. During March, the Student Council was busy encouraging us all to read, have school spirit, and foster a positive school climate through

the Read Across America Spirit Week. They continued the excitement about book characters in LBS's own March Madness contest. Also, the NJ State Troopers were often watching out for our students at the crosswalk morning drop offs. We are so thankful that local law enforcement is here for LBS and the Lebanon Boro community throughout the school year. LBS is Better Together!

Nurse's News: Spring has finally arrived! As the weather becomes warmer, many are taking advantage of the outdoors. Please take care to protect yourself against ticks. For info on how to protect yourself, how to remove a tick and much more, go to www.cdc.gov/ticks. Also, here's a pamphlet from the NJ Department of Health that you can print out for your reference:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/vectorborne/C2471--tick-borne_diseases_brochure.pdf.

Safety Patrol

Congratulations, Jake, Safety Patroller for April 2026!

Jake is a remarkably hardworking and deeply responsible member of the Safety Patrol, approaching each day with focus, reliability, and a genuine commitment to doing his best. He consistently steps forward to help others, often before anyone even realizes support is needed, showing impressive initiative, generosity, and maturity. At LBS, Jake stands out as a dependable leader who younger students naturally look up to. His calm presence, thoughtful communication, and dedication to keeping our school safe reflect a strong character and a true sense of service. With his exceptional work ethic, proactive attitude, and caring spirit, Jayce has earned the trust and respect of everyone around him. Congratulations, Jake, this honor is truly and wholeheartedly deserved!



Art

As spring approaches, our K–8 artists at Lebanon Borough School are busy putting the finishing touches on a wonderful variety of projects. Many classes are completing their imaginative artwork inspired by the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss, filled with playful details, bold color, and creative storytelling. Our Fourth Grade artists are finishing their thoughtful “What America Means to Me” pieces, using art to express their own unique ideas, experiences, and hopes. Our Sixth Grade artists are completing their beautiful Tree of Life artwork inspired by Gustav Klimt, exploring pattern, symbolism, and intricate decorative detail.

Our Kindergarten artists recently finished their joyful Dr. Seuss creations and are now nearly done with their colorful concentric circle paintings inspired by Wassily Kandinsky. Their artwork is full of energy, creativity, and brave use of color.

When our artists return from spring break, we will begin an exciting school-wide project inspired by the much-anticipated Character Contest. The students have been eagerly awaiting the announcement of the new winner. Once the winning character is revealed, all of our artists will choose either the current winner or one of the previous three winning characters and create an original work of art inspired by that character.

This project will give every grade level the opportunity to build new artistic skills. Some artists will dive deeper into color theory, while others will explore techniques such as stippling, hatching, shading, and other exciting ways to add detail and dimension to their work. We know this project will spark lots of creativity, individuality, and enthusiasm, and we cannot wait to see the amazing artwork our artists create.

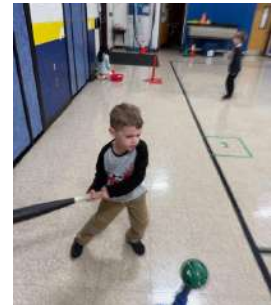
Preschool, kindergarten, first grade, and second grade are also learning all of the chorus lyrics to Suessical!

The date of the spring concert is Thursday, May 28th, at 6:30 p.m



Physical Education/Health

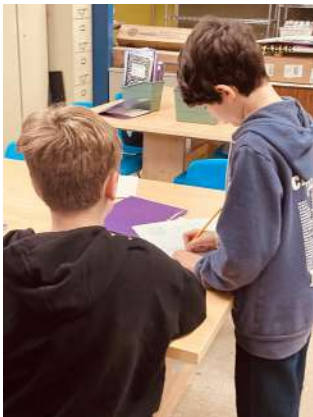
This March in PE, we played games that focused on striking with an implement. Students participated in games and activities such as floor hockey, paddle and racket games, and baseball and tee-ball. In health, we worked on the topics of The Great Body Shop workbooks. Below are some pics of some of our pre-schoolers hitting off a baseball tee.



This coming April, we will participate in foot striking games and activities like kickball and soccer as we advance through the Great Body Shop health materials.

Spanish

¡Maravilloso marzo! This month has been full of fresh learning and fun as we welcome the spring season in Spanish class! Our youngest learners in grades K-1 have been busy exploring spring vocabulary, learning words for things we see as the weather warms up. Through songs, movement, and interactive activities, students are building their vocabulary while celebrating the season. In Grade 2, it's all about *frutas*! Students are combining their fruit vocabulary with the verb *gustar* to share their opinions. From “Me gusta la manzana” to “No me gustan las uvas,” they are becoming more confident expressing what they like (and don't like!). Grades 3-6 are diving deeper into *frutas* with more advanced language work. Students are using *gustar* in more detailed ways, listening to videos of people talking about fruits, and sharpening their listening skills. They are also writing paragraphs to describe what was happening in the videos, focusing on correct verb conjugation and clear communication. Our upper grade students have also been busy conducting interviews with classmates, asking about preferences and reporting their findings. Along the way, they are strengthening their speaking skills and learning how to conjugate verbs more broadly, including *preferir*. It's been exciting to see students growing their confidence and having fun using Spanish in new and meaningful ways!



Preschool

In March, the preschool class continued our lights unit, we learned about St Patrick's Day, and spring. We learned about the lights we see on the road, traffic lights, and lights on the community helpers' cars. We took a walking trip to the firehouse to meet and see the firefighters, the firetruck, and



also the first aid squad. We had the state police visit our class at school to see their cars! We have been using flashlights to find hidden letters in cards and making shadows with the light. We finished our uppercase letters handwriting book



and will begin the lowercase letters handwriting book! We had a fun spirit week, celebrating Read Across America Day, and started voting for the character march madness. We got some outside playtime this month, finally!!! We are all very excited for spring and the warmer weather. In April, we will finish our lights unit and start our plants unit. We are planning to watch the roots of a baby spider plant grow and then plant them to take home.

Kindergarten

During the first week of March, we celebrated “Read Across America” week. We enjoyed reading Dr. Seuss books and participating in many activities. We had fun each day with our school-wide spirit week. We read to our stuffed animals and dressed up. We got together with the third-grade students to read. We also had a visit from our fifth and sixth-grade mentor friends. They shared their fables with us, and the kindergarten students each read a book to them. We also completed many centers with Dr. Seuss activities. We listened for rhymes and practiced writing sentences with rhyming words. We also practiced reading and writing from various word families. We have been working on characters, setting, and plot this month. We are also working on writing a story with a problem and a solution. They are coming up with their own “oh no” moments and “hurray” moments for their stories.

We recently began learning about folktales and fairytales and the elements of those genres. We will continue this genre into next month. We will also be learning to compare different versions of the same story. We will continue to build on our comprehension skills. We are working to add more sentences while writing in our journals.



The class is continuing to learn new sight words. They are working on their “sight word challenge” individually and learning words throughout our reading program as well.

In math, we are completing our first module on geometry. We have been analyzing and comparing three-dimensional shapes. In our next module, we will begin analyzing and comparing two-dimensional shapes. Then we will move on to place value with base ten. We will represent numbers to 20.

In science, we are learning about living and nonliving things and what plants need to survive. We planted sunflower seeds, and we are taking care of them. We have also planted marigold and zinnia seeds. We discussed the weather patterns and signs of spring.

We had a lot of fun with our St. Patrick’s Day activities. We found gold coins with addition problems on them around the room, and we took turns reading the equations and solving them. The students enjoyed presenting and setting their leprechaun traps, which they made for homework. They all had very creative designs! It was a fun day!

First Grade

March has been filled with lots of fun activities in First Grade! We celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday by teaming up with our 2nd-grade friends and buddy reading! Also, that sneaky little leprechaun tore through our classroom!

In Science, we’re still learning about animal traits and adaptations. We’ve also learned that fossils can tell a lot about an animal and what they ate, especially their teeth! After spring break, we will finally begin our animal research projects! This will be a great time to incorporate our knowledge of nonfiction text features and apply them when researching a specific animal.

In Social Studies, we've talked a lot about what it means to be responsible. In honor of our country's 250th anniversary, the students also learned that our first American Flag was different than our current flag.

In math, the students have learned how to interpret and represent data with picture graphs, tally charts, and bar graphs. We've also learned how to make and count tens and ones, count to 120, and represent, read, and write numbers up to 120. After we finish this last module on numbers to 120, we will move on to comparing numbers using the greater than and less than symbols.

In reading, the students are really enjoying reading nonfiction, especially about animals! We are learning how nonfiction text features like the table of contents, captions, and subheadings to understand what we read. In the weeks to come, we will move on to a unit based on the book Frog and Toad are Friends. We'll review that good readers can retell the events in order, understand the problem, solution, beginning, and end, and analyze characters to predict what they will say and do. We'll also be incorporating some more nonfiction texts about frogs and toads.

First grade is looking forward to April and the many fun activities we will be doing! Take a look at our pictures of Buddy reading with some of our 2nd-grade friends!



Second Grade

March has been a wonderfully full and productive month of learning, and I am so proud of all that your children have accomplished! As a class, we wrapped up our Black History unit by researching and writing about the significant contributions of inspiring individuals. Students also worked hard on procedural writing, creating clear and engaging “how-to” pieces



(like making a sandwich), with a special focus on using vivid verbs to make their writing come alive. We had lots of fun celebrating the work of Dr. Seuss—exploring his unique writing and illustration style and even sharing Seuss stories with our First Grade friends. It was a joyful experience for everyone involved! One of our biggest accomplishments this month was completing our personal timelines. Students thoughtfully included photos and important dates to highlight special moments in their lives. These turned out beautifully, and it was clear how much care and effort went into each one. March also brought some seasonal fun with our Leprechaun trap challenge! Students used creativity and

problem-solving skills to design traps to catch that tricky little visitor. While he managed to escape, he certainly left behind quite a mess—much to everyone's amusement! In writing, students created thoughtful and creative self-reflective similes. We're looking forward to turning these into a class book later this spring. In math, we wrapped up our unit on subtraction with zeros. Students showed great perseverance, and we're excited to move into measurement in April. In science, students have been exploring how plants interact with their environment. They've been building seed models to understand how and why seeds disperse, and they will soon begin hands-on investigations to discover what seeds and plants need to grow and thrive. In social studies, we've been diving into the three branches of government. Students are developing a strong understanding of how the executive branch works and



how the president collaborates with members of the cabinet to make important decisions for our nation. As we head into Spring Break, I hope you enjoy some well-deserved rest and time together. We are looking forward to returning refreshed and ready for a bright and busy April filled with learning and (hopefully!) plenty of sunshine.



Third Grade

March was a wonderful month in our Grade 3 classroom. Our students brought energy, imagination, and a positive attitude to every subject, and it has been exciting to watch their growth as they explored new concepts together.

In Math, we focused on understanding fractions as numbers and how they relate to shapes and area. The class worked hard to build a strong foundation in these concepts. Moving forward, we will continue comparing fractions, identifying equivalent fractions, and begin exploring liquid volume and mass.

In English Language Arts, we studied informational texts and practiced key reading strategies such as analyzing text features, making predictions, understanding text structure, and synthesizing information. In writing, we began exploring haikus and will continue with other forms of poetry.

In Social Studies, we learned about Producers and Consumers and how goods and services are created and used.

In Science, we are about to begin our unit on Fates of Traits, where students will explore how characteristics are passed from parents to offspring using engaging, hands-on examples.

This month also included several exciting activities. We enjoyed a field trip to see *Ben Franklin: Mesmerized!* at The Growing Stage Theater. Afterward, we collaborated with the fourth grade to reflect on the play and discuss what we learned about Benjamin Franklin.

During Read Across America Week, our class visited kindergarten to read with younger students, and our third graders were excellent reading role models.

We also had a fantastic time sharing our leprechaun traps. It was wonderful to see the creativity, problem-solving, and imagination behind each design. Students proudly explained how their traps were built and how they planned to catch a sneaky leprechaun. Thank you to everyone who supported this project at home—it brought great excitement and meaningful classroom conversations.



Fourth Grade

Our fourth-grade students have been hard at work exploring exciting concepts across all subject areas! In math, they are building strong skills in long division, double-digit multiplication, and understanding area, perimeter, and the meaning of pi. They even competed in their own first 100 digits of Pi competition, memorizing as many digits of Pi as they could. Nicholas was our winner for most digits

memorized, and we celebrated his achievement by sharing his

choice of pie-apple! In social studies, students are learning about how the government works, our three branches of government, and the important roles it plays in our country.

Our young scientists recently completed their “Birth of Rocks” unit, discovering how different types of rocks are formed, how erosion affects our mountains, hills, and rocks, how to plan to save a city from a landslide, and where the Ring of Fire is located on the Earth. In literacy, students are enjoying their novel study of *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* while also publishing their own informational reports, showcasing their research and writing skills. They were super





creative with their journal responses, answering questions about what they would do if they found a pot of gold or if they caught a leprechaun. They have been reinforcing their cursive writing skills by publishing some of their writing workshop pieces in cursive. We had a wonderful collaboration with the third-grade students following our school trip to The Growing Stage Theater. The classes teamed up to compete in our new favorite gameshow, "Field Trip Trivia!" This was designed to offer a reflection period about *Mesmerized: A Ben Franklin Science and History Mystery*. They worked together to compete to answer over 25 questions about the play,



Benjamin Franklin, and his contributions throughout history.

With the arrival of spring, classrooms are blooming with creative spring activities and beautiful spring poetry. We've also been hard at work on our Wax Museum project. The students have read biographies, started note-taking, developed speeches, and drafted timelines in preparation for our Wax Museum opening on Friday, April 17th. It's been a season full of growth, curiosity, and wonderful accomplishments in fourth grade. Happy Spring!



Fifth Grade

It's been a long and busy month for the fifth-grade class. Students have been getting to school early - and staying late! - to get ready for the spring play, and have been involved in all kinds of clubs going on around the building. We were also proud to have ten students complete the schoolwide Winter Wellness Challenge! And we've been busy in the classroom, doing everything from dividing with fractions to writing our own tall tales.

Our social studies and reading units have dovetailed wonderfully this month. Our history focus has been the 'New Nation' - a series of lessons exploring what happened in the decades *after* the United States won its Independence. From new waves of immigration, westward expansion, and the War of 1812, we come away with a full understanding of the exciting opportunities and real challenges of launching a new nation in a fast-changing world. Our reading selections - drawn from our MyView curriculum - have likewise focused on the principles of freedom and equality throughout American history. We've analyzed the story of the Bill of Rights, looked at a graphic novel depicting a westward journey by stagecoach, and a mini spy-thriller set in Revolutionary Philadelphia.



And as we return from spring break, we'll turn our attention to a perennial 5th-grade favorite - Louis Sachar's epic novel *Holes*. As we read, we'll keep an eye out for themes and style in common with the *Wayside School* books we enjoy reading aloud after lunch. We'll also get to fine-tune and enhance the reading skills we've been practicing throughout the year.

In math, we will move into a study of operations involving decimals, and then onto geometry topics such as classifying angles, quadrilaterals, and triangles. And in science, we look forward to getting back into science, with units on the water cycle and chemistry! Our class

wishes everyone in the Lebanon community a wonderful Spring Break and looks forward to an outstanding month of April!

Sixth Grade

In March, we have been exploring topics and people related to Women’s History Month. Each day, we have a link (or two) about a topic and/or person from history who has contributed to the welfare of our country, particularly as it relates to women. It is a good time for the students to become familiar with these important people in our history.

We have just finished our study of the novel, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne. It is a fable about the Holocaust, told from the perspective of a nine/ten year old German boy. Leading into this book, we learned about fables and their function as a story genre. This fable is more complicated than most, but it has a number of important life lessons for our time. Once we return from spring break, we will work on some poetry in April prior to May testing and then move on to the novel, *Walk Two Moons*.

In history, we finished Ancient Greece and are well into our study of Rome and the Roman Empire. We will follow this with a brief foray into the Abrahamic religions, beginning with Hinduism. We will cover Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We have also begun our mandated Civics unit, beginning with a survey of what human rights are and how we address these in our culture. So far, we have had some great discussion sessions about this!

In math, we have finished our math book with a study on volume, surface area, and statistics. Next month, we will be doing some review of the NJSLA, which I am sure the 6th graders are looking forward to (we are learning about irony and sarcasm in 6th grade!), before moving on to financial literacy.



Our March field trip to Growing Stage Theater to see a play about Ben Franklin.

PTA Information

- [PTA Monthly Calendar](#)
- [PTA Donation Drive](#)

