



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

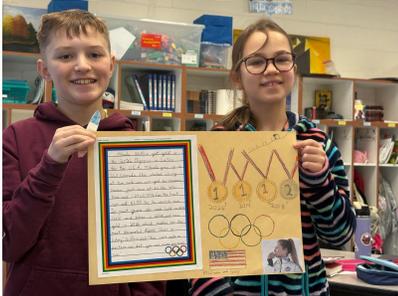
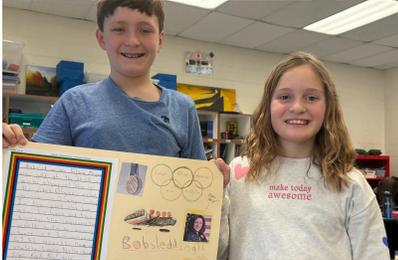
Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

March, 2026

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

March: Small Skills, Steady Progress

March often feels like a transition month. The days are longer, energy starts to return, and students are balancing spring anticipation with the expectations that remain firmly in place at school. It is also a time when steady habits matter more than bursts of motivation.



Over the past several weeks, our school community has

continued to emphasize two areas that strongly support student success, both academically and socially:

- healthy movement and balanced screen use
- practical conflict-resolution skills

These areas may seem simple, but they are foundational.

A Winter Olympics Reminder: Progress Comes From Practice

As families watched events from the Winter Olympics this season, one message came through clearly. Success is built through repetition, preparation, and learning how to respond when things do not go perfectly. Athletes train in small increments, adjust after mistakes, and rely on routines long before competition day arrives.

That same mindset applies to children.

Regular movement helps students regulate energy, manage stress, and stay focused. Balanced screen use supports attention and emotional control. These are not one-time goals. They are habits built over time, through consistent practice.

Simple routines that work well at home include:

- short movement breaks before homework or screen time
- active transitions between tasks
- choosing movement that fits the day, indoors or outdoors

Like athletes, children benefit most when the goal is progress, not perfection.

Important Dates	
Mar 8	Day Light Savings - Spring Ahead 1 hour
Mar 9	PTA Meeting 6:30pm
Mar 10	End of 2nd Trimester
Mar 16	BOE Mtg. 6:30pm
Mar 17	2nd Trimester Grades Open in Parent Portal
Mar 18	12:45pm Early Dismissal - InService

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

Conflict Resolution Focus: Slow It Down, Then Fix It

Alongside physical regulation, students continue practicing social and emotional regulation. One key skill we emphasize is slowing conflict down before trying to solve it.

Helpful language to reinforce at home includes:

- “Pause first, then choose.”
- “Tell me what you’re feeling.”
- “What can you do to make this right?”

These phrases help children name emotions, listen more carefully, and take responsibility for repair when mistakes happen. Just as in athletics, learning comes from reflection and adjustment, not avoiding errors altogether.

Why This Matters Now

March can bring renewed energy and, at times, increased impulsivity. Movement and clear communication help children manage both. When students can regulate their bodies and express their needs, they are better prepared to learn, collaborate, and problem-solve.

These skills support classroom focus, peer relationships, and long-term resilience. They are habits students carry with them well beyond this school year.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for reinforcing these practices at home. Small, steady efforts make a lasting difference.

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

Health Office...

Bully Free Zone: The students finished the month of February working on the character trait of FAIRNESS. They also had a wonderful Spirit Week and celebrated the 100th day of school. Lastly, the students enjoyed themselves during the Wingman Activity Day.

We look forward to the character trait of RESPONSIBILITY for the months of March and April.

Responsibility means one acts in a mature manner and is prepared for any consequence,s both positive and negative. [Better Together!](#)

Nurse’s News: With the increased use of computers, TV watching, and smartphones, our eyes are at risk of becoming strained. Digital eye strain is caused by staring at a computer screen for too long. Digital eye strain can cause headaches, blurred vision, and dry or watery eyes. Follow the 20-20-20 Rule and give your eyes a break. If you or your child is experiencing vision changes, please consult with your eye doctor.

The infographic features a blue header with the text "THE 20-20-20 RULE" in large white letters, followed by "to reduce the effects of digital eye strain" in a white script font. Below the header are three panels: 1) A computer monitor displaying a bar chart with a rising line graph, with the text "Take a break for 20 seconds..." below it. 2) A stylized eye icon with rays emanating from it, with the text "...and look at something 20 feet away..." below it. 3) A clock face with a green segment highlighted, with the text "...every 20 minutes." below it. At the bottom, a green banner contains the text "Follow the 20-20-20 rule and give your eyes a break!" and the logo "healthyssetgo."



Safety Patrol

Congratulations, Sonny Francisco, Safety Patroller for February 2026.

Sonny is a kind, responsible, and dependable member of the Safety Patrol who consistently steps up to help others without ever being asked. His generosity, initiative, and strong sense of responsibility shine through in everything he does. At LBS, Sonny is a true role model for younger students, demonstrating leadership, thoughtful communication, and a genuine commitment to keeping our school community safe. His eagerness to help and his proactive approach make him a trusted and caring presence each day. Congratulations, Sonny—this honor is truly well deserved!

Art

Our K to 6 artists are joyfully preparing for Read Across America and our school production of Seussical, with a school-wide exploration of Dr. Seuss-inspired creativity. Throughout the year, our artists have studied master artists including Wassily Kandinsky, Keith Haring, Alma Thomas, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, and Gustav Klimt, building strong foundations in color theory, line, movement, pattern, and imaginative design. Now, our artists are bringing those skills into the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss.

Our Kindergarten artists are finishing their vibrant concentric circle paintings inspired by Kandinsky, exploring bold color choices and joyful expression. They are having so much fun experimenting with color and will soon begin their first Dr. Seuss-inspired art adventure.

Our First Grade artists recently completed their imaginative Hundertwasser “lollipop tree” landscapes, filled with organic shapes and playful patterns. Next week, they will begin their Lorax-inspired artwork, using techniques learned from master artists to bring Seuss’s environmental themes to life.

Our Second Grade artists wrapped up their energetic and movement-filled Keith Haring projects. They will soon dive into Dr. Seuss-inspired architectural designs, creating their own whimsical buildings and imaginative towns inspired by the creative illustrations found throughout his books.

Our Third Grade artists also completed dynamic Keith Haring works and are now moving into a Dr. Seuss project inspired by A Fish Out of Water, focusing on storytelling, expression, and visual humor.

Our Fourth Grade artists are finishing their incredibly detailed Hundertwasser landscapes. Next, they will begin designing their own “If I Ran the Circus” compositions. This project will also introduce our artists to illustrator Winsor McCay, as we explore similarities between his imaginative worlds and those of Dr. Seuss. In a following project, our artists will build upon these ideas with artwork inspired by McCay’s iconic Little Nemo in Slumberland illustrations.

Our Fifth Grade artists recently completed beautiful Alma Thomas-inspired paintings, celebrating unique brushwork and vibrant color rhythm. Next week, they will begin a Dr. Seuss project inspired by Oh, the Places You’ll Go!. As they prepare for their exciting transition to Clinton Public next year, our artists will practice being brave with color choices, expressive line work, and the importance of taking creative risks.

Our Sixth Grade artists are currently working on intricate “Tree of Life” pieces inspired by Gustav Klimt. Soon, they will begin a Dr. Seuss project inspired by I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew, envisioning their own interpretations of the mythical town of Solla Sollew while exploring new artistic techniques and reflecting on the deeper lessons within the story.

Across all grade levels, our artists continue to build confidence, creative courage, and thoughtful artistic decision-making. It is inspiring to watch them apply the skills they have learned from art history to their own imaginative ideas, blending literature and visual art into meaningful and joyful creations.

We cannot wait to see the beautiful work they create with bold colors, whimsical designs, and the brave creativity of our incredible artists!



Enrichment/Media/Technology

Milano Cortina 2026 Olympics
PreK through 6th grade all learned about the 2026 Olympics. It was great to have conversations in class about the different sporting events the students watched at home. The Olympics are a uniting event, and it was wonderful to see the students so excited about it! Looking forward to the next competition in the summer of



2028!

The younger grades learned why the colors of the Olympic rings are blue, yellow, black, green, and red. The 3rd-4th graders researched participating winter Olympic countries and presented the information to the class. We learned that some countries send 1 athlete, and some send over 200 athletes! The 5th-6th graders researched different winter sports and created slide shows to teach the 1st and 2nd graders about the sports.



AT students have been learning about potential and kinetic energy over the past few weeks. They designed popsicle stick catapults that launched candy hearts. They enjoyed experimenting with different-sized popsicle sticks and launching from the floor versus the table or raised surface. The next project they will be working on is designing a balloon car made from recyclable materials.



The 2nd graders participated in some valentine themed STEM activities this month. They worked in teams to try to build a bridge from popsicle sticks and conversation hearts. The goal was to hold the most pennies in the class without falling down. They also challenged themselves to build a tower of conversation hearts, which is not as easy as it sounds; one wrong placement and they come falling down!

5th graders also researched Denmark and created a class slideshow about World War II Denmark to tie into their reading of The Number the Stars, by Lois Lowery. The students shared some important cities, landmarks, popular dishes, and many other interesting facts. They shared the slideshow this week!



Music

In February, we began working on our Spring Musical, Seussical Kids.

The fifth and sixth grades are beginning to learn their lines together as well as learn the songs. We will begin rehearsing in the mornings in the middle of March (details to follow in an email)

Fourth graders will increase their ensemble performance by playing music that contains harmonic parts. They will also focus on dynamic parts as an ensemble.

The third grade has been working on treble clef note identification.

In preschool through second grade, we will focus on the role of the conductor and how to interpret musical cues. This will help them when they perform as ensemble members in Seussical Kids.

The date of the Spring concert will be sent in an email later this week.



Physical Education/Health

This February in PE, we worked on our basketball skills. We practiced and played a lot of games that revolved around dribbling, passing, shooting, teamwork, and strategy. We also played some scooter games that revolved around the Olympics.



Who knows? We might have some future bobsledders or skeleton competitors. Below are some pics of our 6th graders playing scooter basketball. In Health, we worked on our grade-level Great Body Shop health topics of the month. Next month, we will transition into striking with an implement and our Great Body Shop health topics of the month.

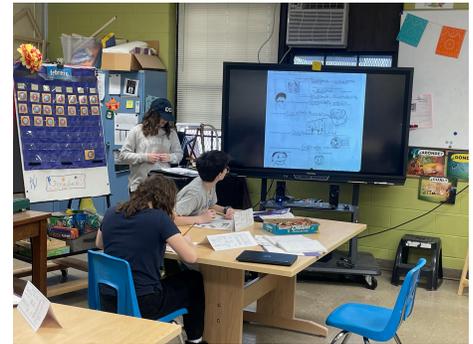


Spanish

¡Fabuloso febrero! In February, we were quite busy in la clase de español!

Our 5th and 6th-graders began the month learning how to talk about their *preferences* in Spanish. Using phrases like *me gusta* and *prefiero*, students practiced expressing their opinions about different activities, foods, and hobbies. We also explored a variety of Spanish-speaking countries around the world, learning about their cultures and languages. Students presented a country of their choosing and discussed typical music, food, and sports of the country. Our 3rd and 4th-graders focused on learning fruit vocabulary in Spanish. We practiced saying,

spelling, and identifying many delicious fruits such as *la manzana*, *el plátano*, and *la fresa*. Students reinforced their learning by watching engaging videos about fruit in Spanish, helping them hear pronunciation from native speakers while making connections between the words and real-life foods.



Meanwhile, our Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders learned all about winter activities and clothing vocabulary. We practiced words for winter clothing like *el abrigo*, *los guantes*, and *la bufanda*, as well as fun winter activities. Through songs, movement, and interactive games, students built their vocabulary while having lots of seasonal fun.



Preschool

This month in preschool, we have been busy finishing up our clothing unit, starting our lights unit, and celebrating Valentine's Day with our friends. We practiced rhyming words, sorting, staying on topic in a conversation, counting, shapes, patterns, and celebrated the 100th day of school. In March, we will finish up our lights unit, learn about Dr. Seuss, and St. Patrick's day. We will learn about the meaning of responsibility and how we demonstrate it. And we will start our Spring themes and continue with our handwriting practice. We will continue improving our rhyming, sorting, cutting, sequencing, counting, coloring, and gluing skills.



Kindergarten

The kindergarten class has been having a lot of fun celebrating the February school holidays! We started off the month celebrating Groundhog Day. We learned what type of weather causes shadows. We partnered with our 5th and 6th-grade mentor friends to make predictions and test our predictions. We read nonfiction books to learn about groundhogs.

The 100th day of school celebration included counting to 100, reading books about the 100th day, counting 100 beads in groups by 10s to make necklaces, making 100-day hats, playing games, and even more!

In reading, we are continuing to read fiction and nonfiction texts. We are discussing the story elements. The class is continuing to learn new sight words. They are working hard on their Read the Rainbow “Sight Word Challenge, individually, and learning words throughout our reading

program as well. We are continuing to work hard while writing in our journals.

The class is also reading books on their individual reading level with me during reading time. Next month, we will be practicing finding rhymes in poems. We will be reading many books to celebrate “Read Across America” week! We will be celebrating by listening to and reading many Dr. Seuss stories and doing projects. We will also partner-read with older students.

In math, we are currently learning to tell our own addition and subtraction problems using the information given. They will also be learning to add to a given number to make 10. We have been practicing

different ways to make 10. We are also working on writing numbers to 100 and skip counting by 5s and 10s. The students will continue to use centers and manipulatives to reinforce these concepts.

In social studies, we have been learning about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We have also been learning about famous black Americans who paved the way for others, like Martin Luther King Jr. They also learned about brave Americans like Ida Van Smith and musician Stevie Wonder, as well as athletes like Simone Biles, for Black History Month. In science, we completed our weather unit. Next, in science, students will learn why birds lay eggs in spring. They will learn how birds change their environment to meet their needs. They will also do an activity to create a bird’s nest.

First Grade

First grade has been very busy! We had a blast celebrating Valentine’s Day and the 100th day of school! In Science, we’re in the middle of our Unit called Animal Superpowers. We’ve been exploring the traits of adult and baby animals, making observations of parent animals and their offspring, and determining how they are similar and different. To wrap up the unit, we will explore behaviors that help offspring survive and investigate how the traits of animals are essential for their growth and survival. In the weeks to come, we will switch gears and dive into a Social Studies unit on weather.

In math, we’ve learned how to solve word problems with “how many more” and “how many fewer” questions using bar models and pictures. Now, we will move on to our Module on Data. The students will learn how to interpret picture graphs, bar graphs, tally charts, and even represent data by creating their own survey and gathering data from their classmates.

In reading, we continue to work on our reading fluency and word attack skills. We’re learning that when a word doesn’t make sense or sound right, we should go back and re-read it so it makes sense. We’re



also practicing reading books with the spelling patterns that we're learning about during spelling time. The students also love their independent reading time when they get to choose the books they want to read.

In writing, we just finished our "How-to" books, where the students chose something to teach and write about. Among some of the titles were How to Make S'mores, How to Make a Fruit Salad, and How to Make Hot Cocoa! In the weeks to come, we will begin our animal research projects. Students will choose an animal to research and write about. This month-long project will take place during our Reading/Writing and Science blocks. Students will practice identifying nonfiction text features, taking bulleted notes from nonfiction texts, and turning those notes into a well-crafted report. We are excited for March and hopefully some warmer weather! St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner, so we will have to see if that sneaky leprechaun comes! Stay tuned!



Second Grade

February was a brief yet enriching month for our Second Grade students! In math, students are mastering algebraic equations and word problems, focusing on solving for unknown numbers. This requires careful reading and reasoning. We have learned to take our time and use drawings, tools, and bar models to support our answers. In reading, we've concluded our traditional folktales unit and some exciting nonfiction text. Students can now read nonfiction texts and articulate how certain text features enhance comprehension of complex material. In writing, we learned how to analyze two nonfiction texts for comparing and contrasting using a Venn Diagram. We then compared different elements of the text to write an essay for two different penguins, the King and the Rock Hopper. The students thoroughly enjoyed this experience and were excited to write their most in-depth piece yet. We also wrote poems with our own rhyming scheme. We are now exploring fairytale writing with elements that explore both the hero and the villain. In science students formulated hypotheses and investigated how canyons form. Through hands-on activities, they created cornmeal canyons to model landforms and observed how water reshapes the land over time. They also analyzed maps to document land and water interactions across a state, explaining how diverse land shapes can influence rainfall and flash floods. This exploration is crucial for understanding erosion's impact on our

environment. In Social Studies, we focused on the role of a president within the government, celebrating our 1st and 16th presidents with advanced reading and learning. Soon, we'll dive into the three branches of our government system. February was also special for holiday activities, including the 100th Day and Valentine's Day celebrations. Students collaborated on various learning activities, fostering teamwork and creativity. We are excited for March and look forward to signs of Spring!



Third Grade

Third grade has been buzzing with learning and fun this month! From celebrating milestones to diving into new skills across all subjects, our students have been busy growing as thinkers, readers, writers, and scientists.



In Math, students worked through the modules Understanding Perimeter and Time Measurement and Intervals. Next month, we will begin exploring Fractions as Numbers. We also had a blast celebrating the 100th Day of School by creating a 100 Acts of Kindness paper chain and enjoying a fun spirit week—including pajama day and Dress Like a Teacher Day!

In Reading, our genre focus included biographies, nonfiction narratives, and drama. Students practiced important comprehension strategies such as making inferences, identifying main ideas and key details, understanding author’s purpose,

distinguishing viewpoints, and identifying an author’s message. We will kick off March with informational text as our next genre study.

In Writing, students worked hard on opinion essays, learning how to state strong opinions and support them with clear reasons and facts. After publishing and sharing their work, we will begin an exciting poetry unit.

In Science, we studied weather and climate, including local weather patterns and seasonal weather patterns. Our next unit will be Social Studies, where we’ll learn about Producers and Consumers.

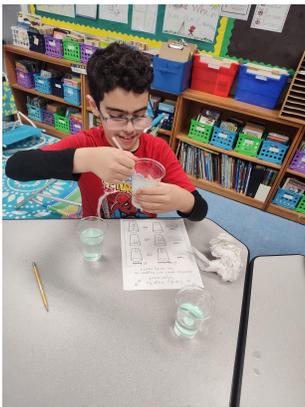
Our third graders are excited to see what next month brings!



Fourth Grade

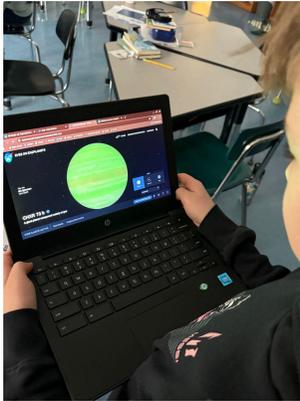
Fourth grade has been buzzing with learning and celebration! Students have been hard at work writing and researching informational reports, learning how to organize facts and explain topics clearly. In reading, they are enjoying a novel study of *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* and listening to *The Lemonade War* as a read-aloud, sparking great discussions about characters, problem-solving, and teamwork. In math, students are strengthening their skills with long division and multi-step word problems, while science lessons focus on Earth’s processes and features. We also

celebrated the 100th Day of School with fun puzzle challenges and creativity! Our class has enjoyed delivering the morning announcements, writing heartfelt friendship cinquain poems, and celebrating birthdays together. Special learning moments included lessons and activities for Presidents’ Day, Groundhog Day, Valentine’s Day, and Black History Month, along with exploring and learning to play new musical instruments. Fourth grade continues to learn, grow, and shine every day!



Fifth Grade

As the eyes of the world were on the Italian cities of Milan and Cortina, the Fifth Grade class has caught Olympic fever this winter! We've enjoyed following the Games and reliving some of the thrilling competitions and amazing feats put on display by athletes from across the globe. The class even decided to honor the achievements of gold medal winners from the United States. For each American champion,



groups of students researched their background and studies their interviews. They combined that information with highlights of the event to write a compelling short story and decorate a poster in honor of their accomplishments. We will be displaying them proudly on our bulletin board shortly - so stop by, take a look, and relive a captivating 2026 Winter Olympics!



Rounding out ELA, we have continued to write our 'This Day in History' journal entries. Most day, we learn about an event from the same day in history, and reflect on it in writing. Sometimes students are asked to write an exciting short story. Other times, they write a brief persuasive

paragraph or descriptive piece. This activity allows us to focus on word choice, penmanship, mechanics, and sentence structure, while also learning something new about the world!

In math, we have moved on from adding and subtracting fractions and mixed number to dividing and



multiplying with them. By starting with a basic idea and gradually adding more and more layers of complexity, the class has done a great job not just by getting the answers right, but by having a sense of just what all these numbers 'really mean'. They should be proud of their persistent work in this sometimes tricky area of mathematics!

As for science, we continue to explore important topics around astronomy and the solar system.

This unit not only teaches us important things about outer space, but also topics around

physics, biology, and how scientists can use gathered evidence to determine what far away worlds are like. We got to explore with an interactive NASA tool where you can navigate the cosmos to find real stars and exoplanets and learn what they probably look like. Just like most of our own planetary neighbors, these worlds are simply splendid!



Sixth Grade

During February, we have been exploring topics and people related to Black 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. It is a good time for the students to become familiar with these important people in our history.

Along those same lines, 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! Last week, we began prep work for our next novel, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. The 6th graders seem to be looking forward to it.

In math, we are finishing our unit on area, and in March, we will be moving on to volume and surface area. In science, we are working on our Biome/Ecosystem Reports, which are due at the end of March, along with the related model they will be working on at home. In history, we are finishing Ancient Greece and will move on to ancient Rome after our assessment. This unit is very interactive, with each person assuming a Roman identity and participating in government role plays throughout the unit.



Sixth Grade working as Wingman leaders in various classrooms.

PTA Information

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

Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org