



# THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

May, 2026

## **Dr. Arcurio's Corner**

Greetings Lebanon Borough School community! May has arrived, and with it comes the exciting final stretch of what has been a truly wonderful school year. As the days grow longer and warmer, there is still so much learning, celebrating, and growing happening here at Lebanon Borough School. I am proud of every student and grateful for the partnership we share with our families as we head into these last weeks together.

## **State Assessments – NJSLA**

May is our state assessment season, and I'd like to share a few brief reminders for families. Our 5th graders will take the NJSLA-Adaptive Science assessment on May 6th and 7th. Students in grades 3–6 will complete the NJSLA-Adaptive ELA and Math assessments May 11th–15th, with make-up sessions scheduled for May 18th–21st.

Please treat these assessments as a normal, healthy part of the school year. The best thing you can do to support your child is to ensure they get a good night's rest, eat a nutritious breakfast, and remind them to simply do their best — that is all we ever ask.

## **Board of Education Meeting & Budget Hearing – May 5th**

A reminder that our Board of Education Meeting and Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 5th at 6:30 pm. This is an opportunity for community members to learn about the district's budget and have their voices heard. We welcome and encourage our families to attend!

## **Teacher Appreciation Week – May 4th–8th**

May 4th through 8th is Teacher Appreciation Week! Our dedicated faculty and staff pour their hearts into this school community every single day, and this is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate them. Our PTA has organized ways for families to participate — please look for their flyer with details on how to contribute.

## **Spring Concert/Show – May 28th**

Mark your calendars! Our Spring Concert and Show is scheduled for May 28th. This is always a highlight of the year, and I know our students have been working hard. More details will be coming your way as the date approaches.

## **Important Dates**

May 4	PTA Meeting 6:30PM
May 5	BOE Meeting/Budget Hearing 6:30PM
May 6-7	5th Grade NJSLA-Adaptive Science
May 11-15	3rd-6th Grades NJSLA-Adaptive ELA/Math
May 18-21	NJSLA - Make-ups
May 22&25	School Closed - Memorial Day Weekend
May 28	Spring Concert/Show
June 3	Early Dismissal - Teacher In-Service
Jun 9	6th Grade Promotion 6:30 pm
Jun 10	5th Grade Promotion 10 am
June 10	5th Grade Train/Somerville Trip
Jun 10	6th Grade Great Adventure Trip
Jun 12	Field Day

*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*



### School Closed – Memorial Day Weekend

Please note that school will be closed on Friday, May 22nd and Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day weekend.

### Looking Ahead to June

As we plan for the end of the year, here are some important June dates to keep on

your radar:

- June 3 – Early Dismissal / Teacher In-Service
- June 9 – 6th Grade Promotion (6:30 pm)
- June 10 – 5th Grade Promotion (10:00 am)
- June 10 – 5th Grade Train/Somerville Trip & 6th Grade Great Adventure Trip
- June 12 – Field Day

### Our Character Focus: Trustworthiness

As we enter these final months of the school year, our character trait focus is **Trustworthiness**. Being trustworthy means that others can count on you to be honest, reliable, and responsible — qualities that form the foundation of strong relationships and a positive community. When students keep their promises, tell the truth, and take responsibility for their actions, they earn the trust of those around them and build integrity that will guide them for years to come.

I encourage you to have conversations at home about what it means to be trustworthy. Ask your children about times they have been honest or followed through on a commitment. Help them recognize the value in being someone others can count on.

As always, I am filled with gratitude and pride for this community. Our students continue to grow in remarkable ways — academically, socially, and personally — and that happens because of the dedication of our staff and the unwavering support of our families. Let's finish this year strong!

Wishing you all a joyful and fulfilling May

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



### The Walking School Bus

On Wednesday, April 15th, Lebanon Borough School attended the Spring Walk/Roll participating in the “Hunterdon County Safe Routes to School Program,” which educates our students on walking to school safely. Students received a sticker for coming along. Please join us on our



Walking School Bus in October! Hope to see you there!





## 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. All the students helped create the Bee Responsible Bulletin Board. Each student shared how they can be responsible. The 5th and 6th-grade Wingman Team visited with the younger students for a fun-filled Wingman

Activity Day. The students continue to show their responsibility in how well they perform during the fire and safety drills. The last character trait for the year is **Trustworthiness**. The core of this trait is honesty, reliability, courage to do the right thing, and loyalty.



## 7 TIPS FOR COPING WITH SPRING ALLERGIES:

1. Consider allergy medication
2. Check daily pollen counts
3. Keep your windows closed
4. Change up your diet
5. Leave your shoes at the door
6. Wash your hair
7. Invest in a HEPA air filter



**Nurse's News:** This time of year, the nurse's office sees an increase in students suffering from seasonal allergies. Here are some tips that might help during this time.

## Safety Patrol

**Congratulations, Andrew, Safety Patroller for May 2026!** Andrew is a kind, happy, and energetic presence in our school community.

Throughout the year, he has taken great pride in monitoring the front door each morning, greeting every student and staff member with a cheerful "good morning." His consistency and positivity have made a meaningful impact on the start of each school day. In the afternoon, Andrew continues to show responsibility by helping our LBS students get to their cars safely and calmly. His care for others shines through in everything he does. Great job this year, Andrew, and congratulations on all your hard work.



## Art

Our K–8 artists at Lebanon Borough School have returned from spring break full of energy and creativity, ready to begin an exciting new chapter in the art room. After completing their Dr. Seuss-inspired projects, along with Fourth Grade's meaningful "What America Means to Me" artwork and Sixth Grade's detailed Tree of Life pieces inspired by Gustav Klimt, our artists are now diving into a highly anticipated school-wide project.

With the announcement of this year's Character Contest winner, our artists have eagerly begun creating original works inspired by either the new winning character or one of the past three favorites. It has been so exciting to see the wide range of ideas and personal interpretations already taking shape across all grade levels.

This project not only encourages creativity and individuality, but also allows our artists to build and strengthen important artistic skills. Each grade is focusing on a different area of growth, including exploring color theory in greater depth, experimenting with stippling and hatching techniques, and developing shading skills to create dimension and detail.

The art room has been filled with enthusiasm as our artists bring their chosen characters to life in unique and imaginative ways. We are looking forward to seeing how these pieces continue to develop, and we are so proud of the creativity, effort, and artistic growth happening in every class.



### **Enrichment/Media/Technology**

April was a quick month! We finished the March Mammal Madness Challenge; it was a battle to the end! Humpback whale and Nile Crocodile were in the final roar.... Humpback whale WON the championship. Everyone was surprised that a humpback whale beat the crocodile! It was fun learning about all the animals (and even some plants) that were competing for the 2026 March Mammal Madness title! We can't wait to watch the competition again next year.

Grades 3-6 have been working on NJSLA Practice tests to understand how the platform works. We are also learning how to manipulate all the tools they have access to during the upcoming assessments in May. Kindergarteners have been reading and comparing various versions of fairy tales. We started our fairytale unit with different versions of Goldilocks and the Three Little Pigs. We practiced retelling the different versions of the fairytales and even acted some of them out! Kindergarten through second grade also discussed how to keep the earth clean in honor of Earth Day this month. We discussed all the ways that we can help to take care of our Earth, such as recycling, picking up trash, and turning off the lights when we leave a room. Hopefully, you are seeing some of these ways to save energy and help the environment at home as well.



### **Music**

This month in music, all of the grades are in rehearsal mode for Seussical Kids! This includes 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st, kindergarten, and preschool. The concert is on May 28th!

An email is going out in the next few days about concert attire.

The 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in band are working on polishing their music for the concert.

We look forward to performing for you!



### **Physical Education/Health**

This April in PE, we practiced and played games and activities to improve our foot striking abilities. We practiced different drills and games to improve our ability to use our feet to manipulate balls and other objects. This included dribbling with our feet, soccer, crazy soccer, and kickball. Below is a pick of students playing crazy soccer with a large foam dice, a football, and other funny-shaped objects! This coming May, in PE, we will practice field day games and backyard games and prepare for the field



day activities. In health, students will learn from the Great Body Shop unit workbook for their grade level.

## Spanish

¡Asombroso abril! This month, our students have continued building their skills and enthusiasm for learning Spanish! Our youngest learners in grades K-1 have continued exploring spring vocabulary, reviewing words for seasonal weather, animals, and things we see as spring arrives. Through songs, movement, and hands-on activities, students are strengthening their vocabulary while having fun. In Grade 2, students are still focused on frutas and using the verb gustar to share their opinions. They are becoming more confident saying sentences such as *Me gusta la manzana* and *No me gustan las uvas* while practicing speaking and listening skills. We are also creating some crazy combinations of foods, and thinking about if we would like lasagna mixed with yogurt! Grades 3-6 have continued expanding their food vocabulary while using gustar and preferir in more detailed ways. Students have practiced listening to Spanish speakers discuss their preferences, writing complete sentences and paragraphs, and improving their verb conjugation skills. They have also continued interviewing classmates about likes and dislikes, then reporting their findings in Spanish. It has been wonderful to see students growing in confidence and having fun using Spanish in meaningful ways each week!



## Preschool

This month in preschool, we have been learning about plants. We have learned what they need to grow, what we need to grow, and the parts of the plant. We watched our spider baby plant roots grow in water and planted them in soil to take home. We are continuing to move through our lowercase handwriting book and practicing our numbers, rhyming, and patterns. Next month, we will finish up the plant unit and start our alphabet countdown to the end of the year. We will also have a field trip with kindergarten and 1st grade to Echo Hill Park!!!!

## Kindergarten

This month in reading, we are working on a unit that focuses on the genres of: folktales, fables, fairytales, nursery rhymes, and myths. I read the class a variety of fables, and we discussed the morals of each. We have also been comparing and contrasting different versions of well-known fairytales. In phonics, we are working on the digraphs: sh, ch, th, and wh. Next, we will be working on long and short vowels with “magic e”. We have practiced many short vowel word families. We are always adding to our sight word vocabulary. The kindergarten class is progressing well and at their own pace with our sight word challenge.

The class has been writing their own fiction books this month, and we will continue to build on our writing as the weeks continue. We are working on editing writing for punctuation and capital letters. The class also enjoyed writing and making crafts for the spring season and holidays. We enjoyed an egg hunt this month, and we sat on eggs and waited for them to hatch.

This month in math, we have been working on geometry. They learned to identify two and three-dimensional shapes. In our next module, we will focus on counting on to make numbers greater than ten. For example, they will learn that fourteen is ten and four more ones.





In social studies, we have been learning about the Earth, inspired by Earth Day and Arbor Day. We have read many books, sung songs, and written about caring for the Earth and what we can do to help. Along with the environmental Earth lessons, we will also be learning about the continents on Earth, maps, and our location on Earth. In our upcoming lessons, we will also be learning about how the Earth's rotation creates day and night.

In science, we began planting and learning about seeds, soil, and how to care for our plants. We have also been learning about animals in the springtime. We have been looking and listening for signs of spring. In science, we have also been doing activities to determine how the sun heats up the Earth's surface. We learned how to use different materials to reflect the sun's light and heat to other places.

Next, in science, we will learn about pushes and pulls. We will do experiments to see how objects react with different forces.

### **First Grade**

The first graders have become excellent researchers! Across science, reading, and writing, we've been working on our animal research books. Each student chose an animal to study. We began by learning how to use nonfiction text features — like the table of contents, chapter headings, and captions — to quickly locate information. From there, students practiced taking notes in a bulleted list format. Now, they're using those notes to write a full report! They've learned how to open with a hook to draw readers in, and have explored their animal's habitat, physical characteristics, predators, diet, and fun facts. It's been a wonderful way to bring together our science, writing, and reading work. A big thank you to Mrs. Baldoni for coming in to support our animal research unit! As always, we continue to introduce new spelling patterns each week and apply them during small-group reading with Mrs. Dulovich and me. Once our animal research books are complete, we'll launch into a Social Studies unit on U.S. Symbols. Students will explore important American symbols, famous U.S. landmarks, and some beloved American songs.

In math, students have been solving problems involving "greater than" and "less than" using manipulatives, counters, and models, and have practiced using the  $<$ ,  $>$ , and  $=$  symbols to compare two-digit numbers. We're now moving into adding and subtracting tens — for example,  $50 + 30 = 80$  — using a hundreds chart as a visual tool. Coming up, we'll continue building on those skills with two-digit addition and subtraction and deeper look at place value.

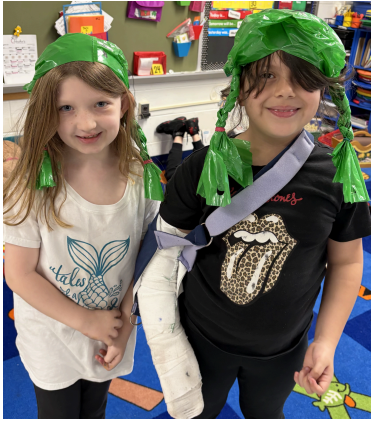
Be sure to check out our photos of birthday celebrations and students sharing their How-To Writing with the 2nd graders!



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### **Second Grade**

What a month! Our second graders have been busy, curious, and delightfully messy in the best possible ways. In science, we investigated plants and discovered that life can begin even without sunlight. Our bean-seed experiment (some with light, some without) showed how seeds can sprout in the dark and that healthy growth depends on nutrition from the soil — not just sunshine. We also made a “Fluffadoo” to learn how seeds hitch a ride on animals and the



wind, helping plants travel far from the mother plant. In reading, we finished our unit on biographies and met remarkable people who cared for others and the planet. Students reflected on how barriers — like career limits placed on women — inspired creative solutions, including the women of Gambia who confronted plastic waste in their village. We practiced quick summarizing strategies to capture the heart of a story. Students sharpened skills, adding and subtracting larger numbers, and practiced accurate measurement using inches, feet, yards, and centimeters. We collected measurement data and displayed it with line plots so that important patterns are easy to spot. In writing, topics celebrated Earth Day and spring themes. We also tried our first

“scary” realistic-fiction narrative — students used what we learned about sound and light to write a tense story about being lost in a cave (don’t worry — everyone got out just fine). For Earth Day, students painted watercolors of the planet and composed acrostic poems based on environmental concerns. Here’s to a hopeful sunny May ahead!



### **Third Grade**

As we wrap up the month of April, our Grade 3 students have accomplished so much across all subject areas. It has truly been a month filled with learning, creativity, and growth.

We hope everyone enjoyed a joyful and relaxing spring break. It was wonderful to welcome students back and hear about their exciting adventures, special moments, and time spent with family and friends. In reading, students explored a variety of genres, including procedural texts and historical fiction. Throughout the month, they strengthened their comprehension skills by focusing on text structure, point of view, and making connections. These skills have helped students become more thoughtful and engaged readers. In May, we will begin an exciting class book study of *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*, where students will continue to develop their reading and discussion skills.

In writing, students focused on poetry and had the opportunity to express their creativity in many ways. They wrote limericks, “I Am” poems, shape poems, and free verse poems. It has been wonderful to see their voices shine through their writing and their willingness to try new styles.

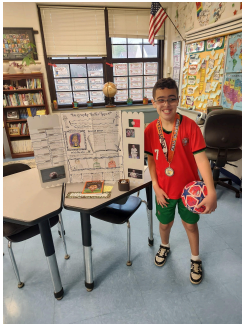
In math, students have completed their unit on fractions, where they practiced comparing fractions and identifying equivalent fractions. They also explored measurement concepts, focusing on liquid volume and mass. In the coming month, students will begin a new unit on data, where they will learn to represent and interpret information using charts and graphs.



In science, students have been engaged in our “Fates and Traits” unit, where they learned about similarities between pigeons and dogs and how traits can be shared. As we move into May, we will continue this unit by exploring the fascinating question of how long people and animals can survive in outer space. In addition, we took time to talk about Earth Day and what it means to be responsible caretakers of our planet. Students shared thoughtful ideas about reducing waste, reusing materials, and showing respect for the environment, and we connected these ideas to being responsible in all areas of our lives—both inside and outside the classroom.

## Fourth Grade

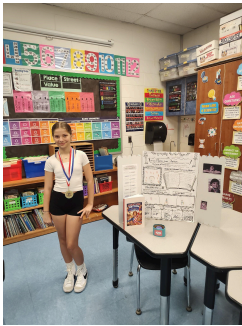
April has been a meaningful and engaging month in our fourth-grade classroom, filled with rich learning experiences across all subject areas!



In reading, students have been captivated by our read-aloud, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo. Through this powerful story, we explored important themes such as love, loss, resilience, second chances, and the importance of listening to others' stories. Students made thoughtful connections and developed a deeper understanding of compassion and empathy.

We also dove into the biography *Barbed Wire Baseball* by Marissa Moss, set during World War II in Japanese internment camps. This true story of Kenichi "Zeni" Zenimura showed students how one person can bring hope and community through the game of baseball, even in the most challenging circumstances. It sparked meaningful discussions about history, perseverance, and the human spirit.

In language arts, students strengthened their understanding of prefixes and root words, helping them unlock the meanings of new vocabulary. They also had fun learning helping verbs set to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," bringing music into grammar practice! We have identified and utilized conjunctions, prepositions, adverbs, verbs, and adjectives in our writing and word study practice.

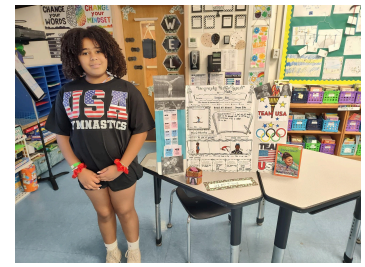


One of the highlights of the month was our Wax Museum Project! Students worked incredibly hard researching historical figures, reading biographies, taking notes, creating accurate timelines, creating creative posterboards, writing and memorizing speeches, and practicing public speaking skills. This project encouraged them to step outside their comfort zones while building confidence, creativity, and presentation skills. The students brought four figures to life: Maddie as Simone Biles, Haylstone as Mary Lou Retton, Nicholas as Neil Armstrong, and Gervasio as Cristiano Ronaldo! We would like to thank the 3-6 grade students, staff, and family members for making the Wax Museum an exciting and memorable experience!

We tied speech writing into our social studies work and unit study of How Government Works, where students wrote speeches about what it means to be a good citizen, emphasizing responsibility and community involvement. In math, students explored prime and composite numbers using the Sieve of Eratosthenes, strengthening their number sense. They also participated in a hands-on Earth Warriors community clean-up, where they collected 2½ pounds of trash! Students estimated the weight of their collection and used our school scale to compare predictions with actual results—an excellent real-world math connection.

Writing and science came together as students created Earth Day acrostic poems and enhanced their fictional writing with vivid adjectives and detailed descriptions. Our science unit on electricity and renewable resources of wind, water, and sunlight helped students understand how energy works and why it's important to care for our planet.

As we wrap up the month, students will continue building their math skills by exploring fractions and decimals, as well as using protractors to measure and identify different types of angles, including acute, obtuse, and right angles. Throughout all of our learning, we have focused on respect, understanding rules, and taking responsibility within our classroom and community. April has truly been a month of growth, curiosity, and making meaningful connections!





## Fifth Grade

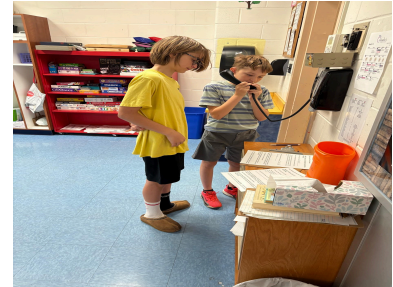
Even with Spring Break taking up the first full week of the month, the fifth-grade class packed a lot into April! The entire class has pitched in to help report the morning announcements and lead the school in the Pledge to the Flag for the last time this school year. Extracurricular activities have also been keeping grade 5 busy! From dance club, student council, chess club, kickball club, and on to the safety patrol, and the upcoming spring play and band concert, everyone has been getting involved.

We've just begun our last major novel study of the year, *Holes*. A modern classic of juvenile literature, this Newbery Award-winning book tells a multigenerational epic, as story threads from different places and times come

together on the shoulders of Stanley, our unlikely hero. For most of the year, our class has been listening to short stories, the *Wayside School* books, also written by Louis Sachar. Even though the books are very different, it's been fun picking out the unmistakable tone and clever humor the author injects into both stories.

The class has been busy researching and writing informational pieces about one of the eight planets in our solar system (with the dwarf planet Pluto thrown in for good measure!) To find information, students needed to use at least one website, a magazine/encyclopedia article, and a nonfiction text. They then prepared three drafts, each building upon and adding to the previous, before beginning a final hand-written copy and creating a realistic illustration of their planet to bring their topic to life.

In science, the topic of the Spring has been Water! We are looking at the properties of water, how it circulates around the planet in the water cycle, and exploring why it rains a lot in some areas and not so much in other places. (On a few occasions, we've been excited to welcome Mrs. Adamaitis and the Kindergarten class, who have joined in with our experiments!) To end the unit, students will go through one or two "in between" stages of the water cycle and create an infographic that uses text, images, and symbols to teach others just what it is. We will discover how elements like groundwater, evapotranspiration (*it's a real thing!*), volcanic vents, and fog and dew impact the water cycle and shape the planet we live on.



In math, 5th graders are brushing up on their operations (with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions) in advance of taking state tests. In addition, we will be touching on the fundamentals of the coordinate plane as well as converting between different units of measurement. We continue to play rounds of 'Hide and Go Scoot', an activity that sends students "seeking" around the classroom to "find" cards that have quick problems to solve. Students enjoy trying to work together to find all the cards, and the practice and subsequent review helps everyone stay up to speed on important concepts!

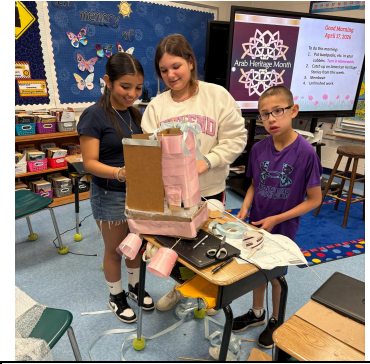
## Sixth Grade

April has really flown by! We have completed 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. In addition, we learned about the Holocaust itself, including actual child victims and survivors. We then began our poetry unit, and will begin our new novel as we head into May.

In history, we have completed our study of Rome and are making a brief foray into the Abrahamic religions. In May, we will move on to Medieval History -- I'd say this is an area most are interested in as it deals with kings and knights, sword fights and wars, castles and manors. We are also about halfway through our mandated Civics unit. It has sparked a lot of great discussion in the classroom about human rights and what our Founding Fathers intended for our government.

In math, we are continuing to hone our math skills through review sessions to prepare us for the NJSLA (we finished our math book earlier in the month). Meanwhile, in science, we continue to work on a unit on the universe and the geologic time scale.

In other news, we are beginning to prepare for our transition to Clinton Public School for 7th grade. We are looking forward to a visit to CPS itself on June 2. We will also be working on our yearbook pages -- please don't forget to send pictures of your child for them to work with, if you have not done so already.



Sixth graders working on STEAM project.

### **PTA Information**

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

Visit our district website

[www.lebanonschool.org](http://www.lebanonschool.org)