



# THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

October 2025

## Dr. Arcurio's Corner

As we move into October, I'm pleased with the strong start to our school year. The opening weeks have shown the positive energy and commitment from our students, staff, and families that make Lebanon Borough School successful. This momentum sets us up well for the busy and meaningful month ahead.

October brings several important events and initiatives that reflect our focus on character development, community building, and academic growth. We begin the month with school closed on October 2nd for Yom Kippur, followed by our PTA Meeting on October 6th at 6:30pm. That same week launches the Week of Respect (October 6-10), where we'll emphasize kindness, empathy, and the values that strengthen our school community.

The PTA is organizing a Clothing Drive from October 4-9, providing a practical way for families to support our school while also helping others in need. This is a great opportunity to clean out those closets and contribute to a worthy cause. Our Board of Education meets on October 7th at 6:30pm, and teachers have an in-service day on October 13th with no students in session.

Mid-month brings our Walking School Bus on October 15th at 8am and Picture Day on October 17th. NJ School Violence Awareness Week (October 20-24) reminds us of our collective responsibility to maintain a safe environment for every student. Red Ribbon Week follows from October 27-31, reinforcing healthy decision-making. Picture makeup day is October 29th, and we'll wrap up the month with our Halloween Parade on October 31st at 9am—always a highlight for our students and families.

These activities aren't just boxes to check on a calendar. They represent our commitment to developing well-rounded students who understand the importance of respect, safety, and community. When students see their school and families working together on these initiatives, they learn valuable lessons about cooperation and shared responsibility.

I encourage everyone to stay engaged this month—whether that's attending a meeting, participating in the clothing drive, or joining us for the Halloween Parade. Your involvement strengthens our school and shows students what "Better Together" looks like in action. Here's to a productive October at Lebanon Borough School!

Better Together,  
Bruce Arcurio, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

### Important Dates

Oct 2	School Closed - Yom Kippur
Oct 4-9	PTA Clothing Drive
Oct 6-10	Week of Respect
Oct 6	PTA Meeting 6:30pm
Oct 7	BOE Meeting 6:30pm
Oct 13	School Closed for students Teacher InService
Oct 15	Walking School Bus 8am
Oct 17	School Picture Day
Oct 20-24	NJ School Violence Awareness Week
Oct 27-31	Red Ribbon Week
Oct 29	Picture Make-up Day
Oct 31	Halloween Parade 9am

*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*

## **Office Items**

### **Standardized Assessment Notification**

New Jersey school districts, charter schools, and Renaissance school projects are required by statute (N.J.S.A. 18A: 7C-6.6) to annually notify parents or guardians by October 1 or within 30 days of any additional statewide student assessment or commercially developed standardized assessment that will be administered over the course of the school year.

[See Schedule Here](#)

All NJ Public Schools are part of the new NJSLA-Adaptive Fall Field Test. This test will provide information to the state and contractors on the functionality of the tests and the electronic platform. We WILL NOT receive any student results from this field test. We are planning to administer the field test sections on November 3rd and November 5th as indicated in the schedule above.

### **Health Office...**

**Bully Free Zone:** Thank you to all the parents who have reviewed the Stop-Walk-Talk, Code of Conduct, HIB parent training, and HIB Policy. If you haven't done so, please consider doing so soon. The students were busy focusing on the character trait of Citizenship this month. Our next character trait will be Respect. We are looking forward to the upcoming assembly on October 1st.

**Nurses News:** When in doubt, please follow these guidelines on when to keep your child home from school. If you have any questions, please contact me at 908-236-2448 ext 114 or [lkosciolek@lebanonschool.org](mailto:lkosciolek@lebanonschool.org).

- Has a fever of 100.0 degrees or higher OR
- Has been vomiting or has diarrhea within the past 24 hours OR
- Has symptoms that keep him or her from participating in school, such as:
  - Very tired, poor appetite
  - Cough that he or she can not control, sneezing often
  - Headache, body aches, or earache
- Sore throat-a minor sore throat is ok for school but a severe sore throat could be strep throat, even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children may include headache, stomach upset, or rash. Contact your health care provider if your child has these symptoms.
- Keep your child home until the fever has been gone for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications such as Tylenol, Motrin or Advil. Returning to school too soon may slow recovery & expose others to unnecessary illness.
- Keep your child home for 24 hours after the last vomiting or diarrhea episode.
- Keep your child home if he/she is coughing or sneezing frequently and is unable to cover the cough/sneeze and is spreading germs to others.
- If your child's illness isn't resolving, please contact your healthcare provider for assistance. If your child has an illness that is contagious, they will need a doctor's note to return to school.



**Thank you for your assistance in keeping our school safe and healthy!!**

### **How To Report An Absence:**

Just a reminder, please notify the school when your child is going to be absent and the reason for their absence. Any of these methods can be accessed throughout the day. If calling in the morning, please do so by 8 am. Thank you!

1. Call the main number (908-236-2448) and leave a message on the absentee line (press #3).

2. Email your teacher and cc the nurse ([lkosciolek@lebanonschool.org](mailto:lkosciolek@lebanonschool.org)) and secretary ([rmuia@lebanonschool.org](mailto:rmuia@lebanonschool.org)).
3. You can submit the absence electronically from the school website. For your convenience I have included the link: <http://www.lebanonschool.org/Report-An-Absence>



### **Safety Patrol**

### **Congratulations, Jayce Vloedgraven, Safety Patroller for September 2025.**

Jace is a kind and responsible safety patroller who consistently steps up to help without being asked, demonstrating generosity and initiative. He takes his role seriously, not only in his own work but also in how he supports and uplifts others.

At LBS, he serves as a role model for younger students, modeling leadership qualities and thoughtful communication. His eagerness to help and his proactive approach make him a trusted and caring safety patroller at LBS. Congratulations, an honor well deserved!



### **Social/Emotional Learning and Community Building**

In September, we began the first phase of implementing “Wingman”, a social and emotional development program that will promote trust-building, team bonding, and camaraderie throughout the school. Wingman is student-led and features a program of experiential education activities that inspire empathy, courage, leadership, and connection. Using fun, purposeful activities to foster deeper conversations and stronger teams, the Wingman program leads to a more connected school community. During the week of September 15th, our 5th and 6th grade students received training on how to lead these activities as well as model the core values of the program, which are:

- W- Winning isn’t everything
- I - Include everyone
- N- Never shut someone down
- G - Go above and beyond
- S- Step up and take the lead

Beginning in October, our student leaders will begin to implement and lead the program for the younger classes.

### **Art**

We would like to thank Mr. Gonzalez for covering our art classes during the month of September. Our new art teacher, **Mrs. Stout**, will begin in October.

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


**Digital Citizenship-** This month, as part of our school-wide focus on **Citizenship**, Media and Enrichment classes for grades K–6 are diving into the topic of **Digital Citizenship**. In today’s technology-driven world, it’s more important than ever that students learn how to navigate the digital landscape safely and responsibly.



From smartphones to social media, digital tools are a constant presence in our lives. That's why we're teaching our students essential skills like media balance, online safety, digital footprints, and how to be safe, respectful, and responsible online.

To lead discussions on digital citizenship, we use the **Digital Literacy & Well-Being Curriculum** from *Common Sense Education*—a trusted, award-winning resource that's been supporting educators and families since 2009.

 **Curriculum Resource:** Explore the [Common Sense Digital Literacy & Well-Being Curriculum](#)

 **Parent Section:** Families are key partners in this learning! Visit the [Parent Resources](#) to see how you can support Digital Citizenship at home. So far, all grade levels have explored important topics like:

- Device safety and Device-free time
- Internet safety
- Digital footprints

Let's work together to help our students become thoughtful, informed, and responsible digital citizens—at school and at home!

**TREPS**—3-6th graders who opted into TREP\$ have started to learn about how to become an entrepreneur and the steps to running a successful business! We meet weekly to learn the ins and outs of running our own business! We have many unique storefronts coming to LBS's TREP\$ Marketplace!

Save the date for the **TREPS MARKETPLACE in the LBS Gym- Dec. 3, 2025 from 5-6:30 pm.**

There will be some awesome goods and services for sale that night. Please come and check it out and support our 3rd-6th-grade entrepreneurs!



### **Music**

Happy new school year! We are so thrilled to be back in music class! During the month of September, we have been getting to know each other by doing activities that represent our different tastes in music genres. The students have done different activities and have shared with the class to show their music tastes as we move forward in the month of October. We will focus on melody and rhythm throughout all of the grades. Melody identification is so foundational in the musical education of our students. Of course, as the year goes on, we will use

seasonal examples of music to help them identify different types of melodies and rhythmic patterns.

We are looking forward to having an amazing school year!!



### **Physical Education/Health**

Welcome to the 2025/2026 LBS school year. This September, all grades have been practicing motor movements and exercises that help to build cardio, muscular strength, flexibility, and balance. Throughout the year, everyone will continue to build on progress in these different fitness components. We will practice different games, sports, activities, and team-building skills. In Health, K-6th grade focused on safety and our monthly positive character trait of citizenship. In October, we will focus on throwing and catching. Please remember that proper footwear is required for safety and comfort for PE class and for playground play. We will be outside as much as possible for PE, so please make sure your child dresses appropriately each day and





has an adequate amount of water. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns. Here is to another wonderful school year filled with positive experiences.

## **Spanish**

Septiembre has been super! We are doing super cool things in Spanish class! Kindergarteners have been learning the basics and routines of class, including numbers 1-10, colors, and the alphabet in Spanish. We have a great time incorporating movement with comprehension by showing we understand what to do. Grades 1 and 2 are practicing vocabulary about classroom routines. We are learning vocabulary to talk about all aspects of the calendar: how to express the months, days, year, weather, and time.

Grades 3-4 have been concentrating on verbs pertaining to back-to-school vocabulary. Instructions are often given in the target language, and we are improving with every class. Many times we can conduct much of the lesson part of our class in Spanish.

In Grades 5 and 6, we have started learning Cien Verbos! (100 verbs!) This recall of verbs will help as we begin to read more, and we can use our knowledge of verbs to understand our reading.

All classes are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, which began September 15th. We have been learning about many famous people of Hispanic origin and why we celebrate this important month.



## **Preschool**

This month, Preschool has been learning the rules and routines of the classroom. We have all adjusted well to a new classroom, new friends, new procedures, and a full day of school. We learned about the people in our school who help us and where they are in the building. We are learning the school and how to move within the classroom and school. We talked about fall and what changes we will see. We started our

handwriting without tears program, learning about the big and little lines, big and little curves, how to hold our crayons/pencils, we built mat man, and started to practice coloring in our handwriting books. We have been enjoying playtime inside the classroom in our centers and outside on the playground!

In October, we will learn about apples, pumpkins, fire, farms, and Halloween. We are all looking forward to Halloween!



## **Kindergarten**

It has been an exciting first month of school in kindergarten! The students are settling into our classroom routines. We have read a variety of books and completed projects related to the topics of kindness, friendship, and our classroom community. The class is doing a great job helping each other learn and sharing responsibilities.

In science, the kindergarten class is raising Monarch Butterflies. We have had four butterflies already emerge, and we set them free. We have one that is still in the chrysalis stage. They are always excited to see them each day. They seem to really enjoy observing them through all of the stages. We have been drawing pictures and creating a butterfly observation mini-book. Next, we will begin learning about what animals and plants need to survive.

In reading, the kindergarten class has been working on our first six sight words. We will learn 3 new sight words this week. We will continue to build our sight word vocabulary. We are working on one letter sound a week through our phonics program, as well as a sound or two a week with our reading program. The students are progressing well and beginning to learn our letter sounds. We work to build our vocabulary, comprehension



**BETTER TOGETHER!**

strategies, and writing skills each day, and we will continue to build on these skills throughout the school year. We are learning to form our uppercase letters using our “Handwriting Without Tears” program. We have been enjoying the songs and tactile tools that help us remember the steps for each letter.

The students are completing many hands-on activities in our learning centers. This week, we are exploring a fall sensory bin and matching pictures to their beginning letter sounds, and we are also using tactile tools to practice letter formation and sight words. The class is also reviewing math skills with games and hands-on tools.



In math, we have been representing numbers 1-5 with objects and with a written numeral. We have been using a variety of hands-on materials to help us learn our math. We will begin matching and counting numbers to 5 and classifying, sorting, and counting objects in the next few weeks.

We have been learning about the season of fall. Last week was apple week. We did many fun activities to learn more about apples. We learned the parts of an apple. We did apple math and counted seeds, and read the story: Ten Apples Up on Top. We sang songs, read books about apples, and talked about how apples connect to our five senses. Next month, we will learn how pumpkins grow. Thank you for all your support in getting this year off to a great start!

## First Grade

We’re very excited to be back in school! First grade is doing an excellent job of learning new routines! During Social Studies, we’ve learned about our school and classroom rules. Soon, we will start our Science unit on “The Spinning Sky”. In this unit, students observe that the Sun, Moon, and stars seem to move in patterns in the sky. We will also make observations of the Sun and shadows throughout the day and across the seasons. Finally, we will determine why stars are only visible at night. In Spelling, we’ve learned our daily phonics routine called the three-part drill, which is a hands-on approach to learning letters and sounds. Each week, we will be learning a new spelling pattern. We’re also reading decodable books that focus on the weekly sound.

In the weeks to come, we will begin a new reading unit. The students will learn that realistic fiction texts are made-up stories that could happen in real life. In stories like The Blackout and Henry on Wheels, we will learn how to make predictions, ask questions, identify the characters and setting, and retell the stories in our own words. Later, we will begin reading informational texts. The students will also learn that informational texts have headings and labels on the photographs.

In Math, we’ve learned how to “count on”, “add 10 plus more”, “make a 10”, and “use doubles” to help us add. The students have their own “math tool kits” which include hands-on learning tools like cubes, counters, and ten frames to help make concepts concrete. In the weeks to come, we will learn how to use objects and drawings to help us subtract, and use strategies like “counting back” and “counting on to subtract”.

We are super excited to return to school and can’t wait to learn so many new things!





## Second Grade



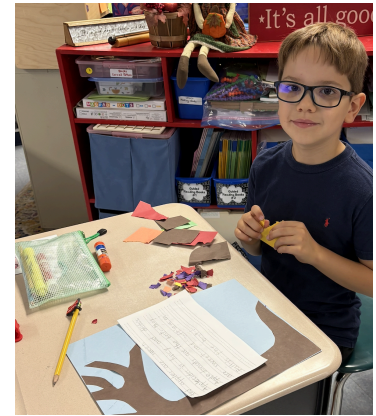
Second Grade has had a wonderful start to the new school year! Our theme this month was "Happy Campers!" We enjoyed writing and reading about camping, and we also used a new flashlight to read around the room. It was a fun ice-breaker for the beginning of the new grade! We've also learned all about one another during our "Me Bags" presentations, an opportunity to share all about ourselves and our special interests. We made many connections with one another, which helps build a strong class community. In math, it's been exciting to use our double facts and our "making a ten" strategy to solve more complex word problems. We're also learning all about arrays and repeated addition. We've learned new math games and had lots of opportunities to work together with engaging math tools. Next month, we will be learning about data and how information is collected, displayed, and used to learn many things! We will also use our addition and subtraction

skills to help us break down one and two-step word problems. In reading, we have focused on Realistic Fiction. We've read interesting stories about places all around us and how we are all affected by our surroundings.

We've enjoyed poetry as well, specifically our Grandparents' Day poetry; we look forward to sharing this with them on October 10th! We also embarked on our first writing project, a narrative story based on

"Something we LOVE!" We are tackling the art of description in our writing. This month, we also wrote fall poems and a small book report.

We celebrated our "First Responders" this month by writing notes of thanks for all they do! In science, we are developing an understanding of animal biodiversity. Students have explored animal classification and the traits that define each group. We're now focusing on animal habitats and how the environment affects organisms. In social studies, we learned about different communities and natural resources found around the USA. We're also working on posters that display our good character of citizenship. We learned that certain behaviors are needed for strong communities!



We learned that certain behaviors are needed for strong communities!

## Third Grade

We are off to a fantastic and productive start in third grade! Over the past few weeks, students have been busy settling into our routines, building a positive classroom community, and diving into exciting new learning across all subject areas.

In writing, we've been working on personal narratives. Students are learning to generate ideas from their own experiences and organize their stories with clear beginnings, middles, and endings. Looking ahead, next month we will shift our focus to informational writing, where students will learn how to write articles to inform their readers

about a topic.

In math, our focus has been on multiplication and understanding area. Students have explored multiplication as repeated addition and learned how to use arrays and equal groups to solve problems. We've also introduced area by using models and connecting it to multiplication. One highlight was taking our learning outdoors, where students used chalk to draw shapes and measure area using unit squares. This was a class favorite, and we all enjoyed taking our learning outside! Next month, we will be learning multiplication strategies.







In social studies, students studied maps—learning to read and interpret various types, identify symbols and legends, and understand map scales. We’ve now wrapped up our first social studies unit and are excited to begin our first science unit on Life Cycles.

Our reading time has been filled with discussions and deep thinking. We’ve focused on identifying key story elements- character, setting, and plot, while also making inferences and uncovering the central message or theme in texts. Coming up, we’ll continue strengthening comprehension skills with a focus on identifying the main idea and supporting details.

It’s been a busy and exciting September! Thank you for your continued support at home—we’re looking forward to everything October has in store!

## **Fourth Grade**

Welcome back and hello to the fantabulous four friends of fourth grade! We kicked off this spectacular year with many different activities and projects to personalize and organize our learning labs. We created bulletin board posters, painted and planted succulent pots, created a Wall of Kindness, designed and personalized cubby tags, and designed one-of-a-kind table art. We determined our homework team names, learned our new schedules, and became familiar with new routines and responsibilities.

We are enjoying our first read-aloud, *Wishtree*, by Katherine Applegate. It is a wonderful story told from the point of view of a 216-year-old oak tree named Red. The characters, both animal and human, help us understand the importance of kindness, community, diversity, acceptance, inclusion, and friendship; themes we will reflect upon throughout the year and in our future.

We’ve been super busy in ELA with journal response writing, cursive handwriting practice, R.A.C.E. writing strategy, analyzing biographies, autobiographies, identifying synonyms, utilizing our dictionaries and thesauruses, identifying subjects, predicates, synonyms, antonyms, suffixes, prefixes, and nouns and verbs. And we have been working with many new spelling word lists from our reading, vocabulary, and word work.



The students are leveling up their multiplication skills with Rocket Math. We are working on place value, estimations, rounding, and 6-digit addition and subtraction.

Our first S.T.E.A.M. challenge was amazing! The students each created a paper chain using one sheet of the same size construction paper, scissors, and tape. We had 84-inch chains up to 252-inch chains. The lengths were record-breaking! The various approaches and methods each student took to achieve their goals intrigued the class. They were intrigued and engaged in determining which method gave the most length to their chains.



Science Lab has been super busy this year with many experiments, models, and lessons all about the Human Body, our systems, senses, and our brains! We are making excellent predictions and hypotheses and figuring out the answers to WHY and HOW our body’s systems work the way they do, and why some people’s senses and systems act differently.

Geography is our current Social Studies unit. We will study longitude and latitude, our Earth’s physical features, and more. We will also begin The Great Mail Race, to share what we know about our area of New Jersey with fourth-grade classes in the 49 other states. The class will generate answers to a survey about special features of our state and our area, research other elementary school addresses, send a survey to those schools, and upon return of the surveys, the students will locate the state on our map, read and

learn from the other 4th-grade classrooms about their states and the geography around our whole country.

October will be busy with our first book report and project assignment. We will be drafting and publishing personal narratives, as well as writing our own biography poem. We will start our first Novel Study of *Frindle*, by Andrew Clements. And we will begin applying the formulas for area and perimeter in math class. We are looking forward to another marvelous month of learning, writing, reading, and collaborating with the fantabulous four friends of fourth grade.

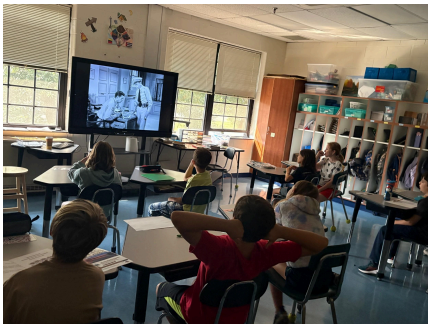


### **Fifth Grade**

LBS Fifth Graders have had a busy start to the 2025-2026 school year. The month of September offered the class two big opportunities to step up as leaders. This year, each fifth and sixth-grade student is serving as a mentor to a member of the Kindergarten class. After meeting for a "getting to know you snack", the older students have been called on to work alongside their mentees to complete fun projects. They've been a big help to their peers, who already look up to their mentors and enjoy seeing and greeting them as they move around our school.

Then, the class took two days out of our routine to be trained as leaders in the Wingman program. Our trainer, Patty, led us through team-building challenges that taught us more about ourselves, each other, and what we can achieve together. These fulfilling days challenged students, while also making it clear that there is room on our team for everyone. And as a Bonus, we came back for an extra period to learn a new outdoor game – Alaskan Baseball! The class looks forward to running these activities – and spreading the Wingman message – throughout the year.

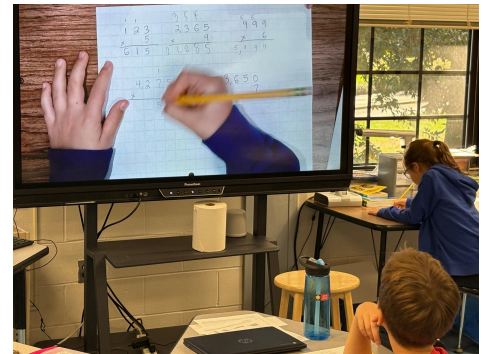
Back in the classroom, fifth grade has been hard at work



addressing a concept that will be vital to success throughout the year: Place Value. An important new piece of this idea has been exploring exponents and powers of ten. Understanding how the value of each digit compares to another deepens understanding of numbers, particularly when we explore decimals later on in the Spring. We are also extending our knowledge of the traditional multiplication algorithm to multiply by two-digit factors. Moving into October, we will be exploring two-digit division, as well as volume concepts. In science, we are beginning the year with biology, and studying the many ways that living things are connected and support one another.

Students worked together to create food chains from a set of plants and animals. They enjoyed seeing how many creatures could reasonably exist in the same ecosystem.

We began the year in ELA by reading *The Thing About Georgie*, a novel that tells the often humorous story of a boy who has dwarfism, facing some of the challenges all kids his age go through. The story gives us the opportunity to read together, address comprehension, and make connections between the themes in the story and students' own lives. After completing the novel, we will move into the first unit of our *Journeys* stories in our ELA curriculum. And in writing, we've started the year by learning about and authoring personal



narratives. (To emphasize how narratives show growth and change in their main character, we stepped into the shoes of a classic television character to practice!) Up next, we will be moving into writing creative short stories in our next unit.

We look forward to reporting our activities in the Wildcat throughout the school year and wish everyone a wonderful Fall!

### **Sixth Grade**

Sixth Grade is off to a busy start this year! After some benchmarks, we quickly turned to adventure with *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead Moore. It is a fun book that the class seems to enjoy. Next month, we will make a 180° turn and begin reading *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, which seems an appropriate fantasy to lead us into Halloween! In other English/Language Arts, we have been working in Membean and learning parts of grammar with our Interactive Grammar Notebook; in October, we will start on Greek and Latin roots.

In social studies, we are learning about early river civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and India. There is so much to discover in these cradles of civilization. Once we finish these, we will move on to the ancient Latin American civilizations of the Maya, Inca, and Aztec people

Science provided us an opportunity to learn about the Sun-Earth-Moon system and scale in the Solar System. We will continue this through October before moving on to Ecosystems and Biomes toward the end of that month (or the beginning of November!)

Finally, we spent one day reviewing and extending our leadership skills with the Wingman program. All of our students are really looking forward to sharing their experiences with the younger grades this year. Your students also have a chance to join the Student Council again this year. Please talk with them about this leadership opportunity.

### **PTA Information**

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

