



The Wildcat's Roar

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

November 2026

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

A Season of Connection and Gratitude

November is here, and it is hard to believe how quickly the school year has moved along. Our routines are well established, our classrooms are full of curiosity, and our students are showing real growth. This month gives us a natural moment to slow down, look at how far we have come, and strengthen the connections that make Lebanon Borough School such a special place.

Parent-Teacher Conferences, November 2-4

Early dismissal days from November 2 through 4 allow our teachers to meet with families about each child's progress. These conversations are one of the best tools we have for helping students succeed. They are a chance to celebrate strengths, talk openly about next steps, and agree on goals for the rest of the year. Thank you to our teachers for the careful preparation they put into every conference, and to our families for making time to partner with us. When home and school work together, students feel the difference.

A Few Schedule Reminders

Please remember that clocks fall back on Sunday, November 1, so enjoy the extra hour of sleep. School will be closed on November 4 and 5 for the NJEA Teacher Convention. Our Board of Education meets on Tuesday, November 3, and the PTA meets on Monday, November 9, at 6:00 PM. All families are welcome at both, and PTA meetings are a great way to get involved and hear what is coming up for our students.

Honoring Our Veterans

On Wednesday, November 11, we observe Veterans Day. We thank the men and women who have served our country, and we are mindful of the sacrifices they and their families have made. Their example of service and commitment to others reflects the values we hope to build in our students every day. I encourage you to talk with your children about what this day means and to take a moment to thank a veteran you know.

Thanksgiving Break

Students will be dismissed early at 12:45 PM on Wednesday, November 25, and school will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Please plan for the early dismissal, and have a safe and relaxing break.

Important Dates

Nov 1	Daylight Saving Time
Nov 2-4	Early Dismissal - Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov 3	BOE Meeting
Nov 4-5	School Closed - NJEA Teacher Convention
Nov 9	PTA Meeting 6:00 PM
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 25	12:45 PM Early Dismissal - Thanksgiving
Nov 26-27	School Closed - Thanksgiving
Dec 1	BOE Meeting
Dec 2	TREP\$ Marketplace



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

Looking Ahead to December

The Board of Education meets again on December 1, and on December 2, our students will take part in the TREP\$ Marketplace, where they put their creativity and entrepreneurial skills on display. More details will follow, and we hope you will join us to support our young entrepreneurs.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am grateful for our dedicated staff, our supportive families, and our enthusiastic students. You are what makes this school community strong. I wish you a peaceful holiday filled with family, friends, and the simple moments that matter most.

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Student Council

The LBS Student Council held its first meeting of the year this October. This year, we have 12 members in grades 4 and 5.

We started by making posters for the Week of Respect and hung them up around the school. The posters had lots of ways for everyone to show respect. They also reminded everyone to wear Gold and Blue on Fridays!



We also helped let people know about the Walking School Bus, and lots of Student Council members walked around town before school. There were so many people who walked, and it was lots of fun.

Next, we planned a Red Ribbon Spirit Week by picking a special theme for each day. We helped organize bags for each teacher with fun treats like stickers, ribbons, and

bookmarks from Mrs. K about being drug-free. We also announced the classes that showed the most spirit each day! Monday was Wear Red Day. Tuesday was Hat and Jersey Day. On Wednesday, we had Pajama and Stuffed Animal Day, and on Thursday it was Fall Foliage Day, and we saw lots of bright fall colors all over the school!

We hope everyone at LBS has a great November!

Walking School Bus

On Wednesday, October 14th, Lebanon Borough School celebrated *International Walk to School Day* by 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 next Walking School Bus! Hope to see you there!



Health Office...

Bully-Free Zone: October has been a busy month. The students celebrated Respect Week, Anti-violence Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week. During the week of respect, we joined other schools in New Jersey in celebrating respect. We also enjoyed the assembly “Freedom From Within” given by Mobile Ed Productions. Through song and dance, students learned to be more aware of their feelings and ways to promote positive choices. We sang fun songs like “Don’t Worry Be Happy”, “One Love,” and “This Land Is Your Land”. Respecting ourselves is equally important as respecting others. All the students participated in the “Serving Up Cups of Respect” activity. The children decorated their cups with how they show respect. During Red Ribbon Week, the staff and students showed their school spirit. A big



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thank you to Mr. Pepe, Mrs. Dulovich, and the Student Council for all their help in preparing the spirit-filled themes and making the fantastic posters displayed throughout the school. For the month of November, our character trait is Caring. Our focus as a school community towards one another will be: kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness, and helping people in need.

Nurse's news: School screenings have begun. All students' height, weight, blood pressure, vision, and hearing will be screened. The first graders will have their color vision checked, and the 5th grade will have scoliosis checked. You will only be notified if there is a problem or concern.



Safety Patrol

WOW! I am so lucky to work with such a great group of students! Our Safety Patrol team has gone above and beyond this year, whether they are on duty or simply stepping in to help. They take initiative, help organize weekly responsibilities, support their teammates, assist younger students, and lend a hand to our LBS staff whenever needed.

Their hard work and leadership have not gone unnoticed. Teachers throughout the building have shared how impressed they are with this group. One teacher even remarked that this may be the best Safety Patrol team LBS has ever had!

I couldn't be prouder of these students or more grateful to have them represent LBS. Beginning in December, we will recognize a **Safety Patroller of the Month**. Given the dedication and positive attitude these students show every day, I have a feeling choosing just one each month will be very difficult! 😊

Art

Our students have officially wrapped up our school-wide exploration of the Element of Art: Line, and the finished work turned out beautifully! In between units, students have also enjoyed some open-ended art experiences, giving them opportunities to make choices, take creative risks, problem-solve, and build confidence as independent artists. We have now moved into our next Element of Art: Shape.

Pre-K: Our youngest artists created blue and gold collages using squares and rectangles while learning our school colors and building a sense of connection to our Wildcat community. Along the way, they practiced important cutting and gluing skills. We have now moved on to circles with an "I Like Me!" mirror project focused on confidence and self-love. Students shared things they love about themselves, decorated their mirrors, added shiny foil "glass," and will finish them with gems and their own photographs next class.

Kindergarten: Kindergarten artists are exploring shape through painting and sculpture. Students first created their own colorful painted papers, which they will cut into shapes and combine with beads and other materials. Using a Model Magic base and a vertical support, students will layer and arrange their shapes and beads to create unique, playful three-dimensional sculptures.

First Grade: After completing their wonderful line-filled turtles, first graders are moving into shape by designing their own robots. Students are combining geometric shapes in imaginative ways to build completely original robot characters.

Second Grade: Second graders finished their dinosaur cityscapes and are now exploring shape through the book, "Mr. Tiger Goes Wild," by Peter Brown. Inspired by the story, students are creating tiger drawings built from shapes while thinking about how simple forms can be combined to create expressive characters.

Third Grade: I was so impressed with the thoughtful self-portraits our third graders created during our Line unit. For Shape, we began with a question: If a feeling could become a shape, what would it look like? After reading "Exactly You! The Shape of Your Feelings," students began creating expressive shape drawings that connect art with social-emotional learning and show how line and shape can communicate mood and meaning.

Fourth & Fifth Grade: Our Animals with Attitude projects turned out wonderfully, and I am so proud of the creativity students showed. For our Shape unit, students are creating imaginative nighttime buildings filled with glowing windows. Using line and shape on dark backgrounds, they are developing visual narratives about what might be happening behind each lit window. This project has been a wonderful way to encourage storytelling, imagination, and individual artistic voice.

It has been such a joy watching our students grow not only in skill, but also in confidence, creativity, and independence. I love seeing each of our young artists discover that there is never just one right way to make art, and I can't wait to see where our exploration of Shape takes us next!

Enrichment/Media/Technology

Grades 4-5 continued to discuss digital citizenship. We've explored how to keep our digital footprint safe and how to try to identify AI fakes. If you're looking for ways to continue this conversation at home, I encourage you to visit Common Sense Media for great resources: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>. We are continuing typing/keyboarding practice that we began last year.

Grades K-3 learned how to drag and drop using a trackpad; this is harder for little hands, so I taught them how to do it with 2 hands until they feel comfortable. Eventually everyone will graduate to the one-handed drag and drop, but for now they can use what works best for them! In addition, we are beginning to work on keyboarding skills by using 4 fingers to type. We are beginning on the home row -- this is a lot harder than it seems!

TREP\$ students have been busy learning about how to price their items for their store and the 4 P's of promotion: product, place, price, and promotion! Next we will be working on slogans and digital posters to advertise their stores. The excitement is building for our marketplace on **December 3rd from 5:00 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.**, and we can't wait to see you all there! Please spread the word to neighbors, family, and friends to support our students.



Music

This month in music was "spooky" month. We have spent October covering different elements of music using Halloween-themed songs and activities.

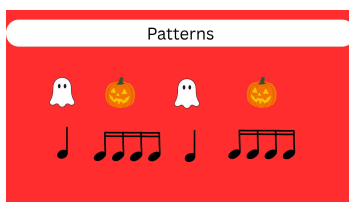
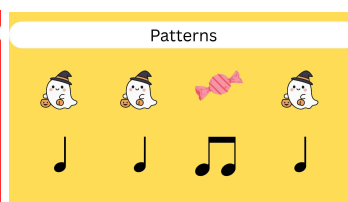
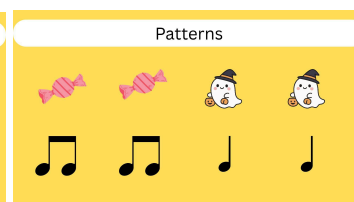
In grades four and five, we have worked on writing stories that include sound effects embedded within the story. The students were given a sound board ([here is the link](#)) in which they chose from twenty different sounds to incorporate into their own story. The students will add dramatic flair when presenting the stories.

For the **instrumental class** (grades four and five), we have learned how to play the notes G, A, B, C, and D on the recorder. We have also begun to

sight-read simple musical exercises as a group.

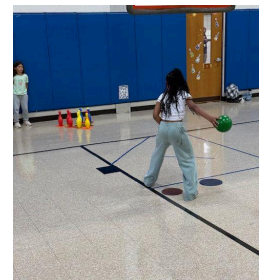
Instrumental lessons also began in October.

In **preschool through third grade**, we have sung, danced, identified notes and rhythms, and have performed rhythms using Halloween songs. We have also focused on pattern identification for quarter and eighth notes. Below are some examples of the patterns we have learned this month. The students have demonstrated knowledge of the patterns by verbalization, clapping, patting, and performing on percussion instruments.



Physical Education/Health

This October in PE, we practiced our underhand throwing and catching games. We rehearsed the "Tick-Tock, Step and Rock" cues to strengthen and enhance underhand throwing. Below are some pics of our third graders enjoying some bowling. They played and learned some new games that focused on the physical cues needed to execute an underarm toss. Games like cornhole, Storm the Castle, Battleship, and



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more. All students continue to improve their motor skills and fitness levels. In health, all classes worked on their Great Body Shop workbooks. We also discussed our monthly pillar character trait, respect. In November, we will build on our overhand throwing and catching skills and the cues that need to be practiced.

Spanish

¡Increíble octubre! In October, we are learning about *Día de Muertos* (Day of the Dead), a Mexican holiday that honors and remembers loved ones who have passed away. Students are discovering the traditions and cultural significance of this special celebration. Across all grades, we are continuing to practice Spanish classroom routine vocabulary and build confidence answering questions in Spanish. Grade 2 is learning to talk about likes and dislikes, while Grades 1 and 3 are exploring weather vocabulary and learning how to describe the weather in Spanish. Grades 4 and 5 are working on adjectives through our exciting Great Pencil Challenge, using Spanish descriptive words to talk about their pencils and putting their new vocabulary into practice. Students are continuing to build their Spanish vocabulary and conversational skills while discovering the connections between language and culture. ¡Vamos!

Preschool

This month in preschool, we have been learning about apples, pumpkins, fire safety, and Halloween. We all enjoyed Halloween and our class party. We have been practicing our pencil/crayon grip a lot in our handwriting books. We learned the letter L and the number 1, practiced counting and positional words, and made Halloween crafts. We had a visit from the fire truck and tasted apples to see which we liked best. We pretended bean bags were apples to see how many we could balance on our heads while walking around the classroom. We also started show and tell this month. While learning about fire safety, we got to look at some real fire equipment and try on a helmet and boots! Next month we will continue learning letters, start our tree study, learn about colors/color mixing, and Thanksgiving.



Kindergarten

Earlier this month, we released our last couple of monarch butterflies, so they could begin their migration south. The students seemed to really enjoy raising the butterflies. Currently, in science, we are studying plants and animals. The students are learning what living things need to survive. They are also learning about animal homes. We have been taking some nature walks to look for squirrel and bird nests in trees. Next, we will be learning about weather. This will include storms and weather conditions.



In reading, we are learning about realistic fiction and informational text. We have been reading stories from these genres. We are learning letter sounds, and we are blending those sounds into words. The students have been enjoying reading their decodable stories. In writing, we have been writing words and sentences in our journals, and some of us are starting to sound out words using phonetic spelling. They are doing an excellent job! In our next reading unit, we will be reading fiction stories

and a persuasive text. We will also continue to learn new sight words weekly.

In math, we recently completed our module on matching and counting numbers to 5. We began our next module, which will be working with numbers to 10. We are working in small groups to complete math center activities on our individual levels.

This month we celebrated a week of respect. During that week, the class listened to a variety of stories about



empathy and kindness. They learned to consider other people's feelings. This week is Red Ribbon Week, so we are discussing the importance of being drug- and bully-free. The students have been creating a red ribbon book. We have been discussing healthy choices. We have also been reading many Halloween stories and making a variety of projects. We created a colorful watercolor ghost after listening to the story: [The Chocolate Chip Ghost](#).

First Grade

First grade has been busy learning and exploring! We wrapped up our science unit on Day Patterns and explored patterns in the night sky, including constellations and the moon's cycle. We have also begun a new social studies unit on Neighborhood Helpers. Through a variety of read-alouds, we have been learning about the important people who help keep our neighborhoods running smoothly. Looking ahead, we will begin a new science unit on Light, Sound, and Communication once we finish our social studies unit.

In Math, we have been learning a variety of subtraction strategies, including counting back and counting on. We have also been exploring the connection between addition and subtraction and discovering how these operations work together. Our next module will focus on the Properties of Addition.



In Writing, our young authors have been busy creating narratives! We have focused on including a beginning, middle, and ending in our stories. Students are learning that they can write personal narratives about their own experiences or create stories featuring characters of their own. We have also been practicing using uppercase letters at the beginning of sentences and appropriate ending punctuation. In phonics, we took our learning outdoors and practiced writing words using the sound patterns we have been learning in class! In November, we will shift our focus to writing about the things we are thankful for.

We wrapped up October with a variety of exciting activities! Students enjoyed a visit from the Lebanon Borough Fire Department and learned more about the important role firefighters play in our community. We also had a fun, hands-on pumpkin investigation! Students learned about the pumpkin life cycle, explored whether pumpkins sink or float, and used math manipulatives to measure and compare pumpkin height and width. We finished the month by enjoying our Halloween celebration together.



We are looking forward to all the learning and fun November will bring!

Second Grade



It's been a super month of learning in Second Grade! The students have enjoyed reading realistic fiction and informational text. They recently learned how to summarize longer text using a "Story Wheel". Learning how to identify the main idea can be tricky, but we've learned how to break interesting facts into smaller pieces for better retrieval. In Social Studies we have mapped the world for continents and oceans, and now understand why we have an Equator and a Prime Meridian. We learned all about cardinal and intermediate directions, too. We've learned how to read many different kinds of maps! In math we have been mastering place value. We can now determine how many tens are in larger numbers. We know that each digit has a special value. We used math tools to

model many numbers and have had fun working together to write and model large numbers. In science, students have been exploring how plants interact with the environment to meet their needs. Students conducted hands-on investigations to determine what seeds need in order to grow and thrive. We explored how the structures of seeds enable them to disperse, with a focus on seeds that utilize animal structures to aid in that dispersal. Students also investigated why bees spend so much time in and

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around flowers. We used the outdoor classroom for a fun activity with a flower and bee model that mimicked the function of an animal pollinating a plant. Our “shared reading” this month has us focused on informational text and how we, *as good readers*, monitor our comprehension by asking questions and summarizing facts as we go. In writing we also completed fall poems and a Halloween story. We’ve enjoyed sharing seasonal joys, including hosting our grandparents for a special day together. We sang songs, read poetry, and completed a fall craft together. A big thank you to the grandparents who were able to join us! And of course, we’re all so excited for Halloween and look forward to more seasonal activities coming up next month!



Third Grade

October has been filled with exciting learning experiences and creative adventures in our third-grade classroom! From strengthening our literacy skills to exploring math strategies and collaborating on a STEAM project, our students have been busy learning and growing.

Phonics, Spelling, and Handwriting-We strengthened our phonics and spelling skills by practicing common consonant digraphs (*ch*, *wh*, and *th*) and learning the **Cat/Kite Rule** for using *c* and *k*. We also held our very first classroom **Spelling Bee** to reinforce our

spelling skills in a fun and engaging way! To bring our phonics learning to life, students created cat and bat characters and performed a play highlighting words with the short *a* sound. In cursive handwriting, we practiced the proper formation of the letters *c*, *a*, *d*, *g*, *h*, *t*, *p*, *e*, *l*, and *f*. We are also enjoying our October read-aloud, *Runaway Ralph* by Beverly Cleary!

Writing Workshop-Our young authors proudly published their **Fall Narratives**! Students focused on establishing a clear setting, writing in the first-person point of view, and incorporating dialogue to bring their personal stories to life. We are so proud of their creativity and hard work!



Math-Module 2 has kept us busy exploring addition and subtraction strategies with numbers up to 1,000. Students are using place value, properties of operations, and the relationship between addition and subtraction to solve problems and strengthen their mathematical thinking.

Reading and Language Arts-We are building our understanding of nouns and proper nouns while exploring important story elements, including characters, setting, and plot. These skills help us become stronger readers and deepen our understanding of the stories we read.

Social Studies-Students are learning about their roles and responsibilities as citizens, the contributions of freedom fighters, the Bill of Rights, and other important concepts that help us

understand our rights and responsibilities in our community and country.

STEAM Spotlight: Vojacjestic Park!-One of our favorite October highlights was collaborating to design and build an amusement park using LEGOs! Students shared ideas, solved problems, and worked together to bring their creations to life. Our class proudly named the finished project **Vojacjestic Park**, a special name created using the first initial of every classmate and our teacher. What a wonderful way to celebrate teamwork, creativity, and our classroom community!

Happy Halloween!-October has been a month full of learning, imagination, collaboration, and fun. We look forward to all the exciting adventures that November will bring. Wishing all our families a safe, happy, and spooktacular Halloween!



Fourth/Fifth Grades

The 4th and 5th grade class have been playing host to some classroom visitors throughout the month of October, courtesy of Mystery Doug and Uncle Jim's Worm Farm - 100 wriggling red mealworms! A little scrawny when they first arrived, adding moisture to their soil and chopping young up soft fruits and vegetables,

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they've grown as they broken down the organic material into nutrients that can help new plants grow strong. We've enjoyed learning about their - and other decomposers' - contributions to our world and the living things that make it up. We've also looked backward a couple of millions of years to consider the extinction of the dinosaurs, considering the critical role of the Sun in powering living things and the organisms best suited to survive when established food chains collapse. As we wrap up the Web of Life science unit, we turn our attention towards social studies in November.

In math, 5th graders have been learning about converting word stories into written expressions, the order of operations, and the significance of prime numbers. 4th



graders have been exploring properties of multiplication and division, looking for patterns to make operations with larger numbers and powers of ten a breeze!

And while it can at times be a frightening experience, we have been reading our first major novel of the year – *Bunnicula* by Deborah and James Howe. The story of a family and their pets who welcome a bunny (who they ominously come across at a movie theater playing a Dracula movie...) that may or may not be turning their vegetables white! With lots of vivid vocabulary, exciting action, and hilarious commentary on the everyday lives of pets and humans alike, spending some time with Harold, Chester, Bunnicula and the Monroes has been the perfect way to kick off

this spooky Halloween season!



[Join the PTA](#)

Our PTA is a wonderful organization that works in conjunction with the school to provide students with enriching opportunities that could not happen without its support. Field trips, assemblies, family events, supplies, and equipment are just a few of the many ways that our PTA supports the children of Lebanon Borough. Please be sure to join the PTA! All information can be found on the PTA page of our district website.

[PTA 26-27 Calendar](#)

[LBS PTA Donation Drive](#)

Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org