



The Wildcat's Roar

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

October 2026

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

October is a month that shows who we are as a school. Look closely at the calendar, and you will see a pattern: respect, safety, service, reading, healthy choices, and celebration. Each week gives us a chance to teach something that matters far beyond the classroom.

We begin with the Week of Respect, October 5-9. This is our chance to talk with students about what kindness looks like in practice, from how we greet one another in the hallway to how we include the classmate who is sitting alone. Later in the month, School Violence Awareness Week (October 19-23) and Red Ribbon Week (October 26-30) build on that foundation by helping students understand safety and make healthy, confident decisions. These lessons work best when they are echoed at home, so I encourage you to ask your child what they are learning each day.

Service and reading are also on the calendar. The PTA Clothing Drive runs October 12-16, and it is a simple way for our families to help neighbors in need while showing children what generosity looks like. The PTA Scholastic Book Fair follows October 19-21, a chance to put a new book in a child's hands. My thanks to our PTA volunteers, who make both events possible.

There are also moments to simply enjoy being together. Our Walking School Bus is October 14, School Picture Day is October 16, and our Halloween Parade on October 30 at 9:00 AM will close out the month in the way our students love best.

A few dates to mark as well: school is closed on October 12 for a teacher in-service day, the PTA meets that evening at 6:00 PM, and the Board of Education meets on October 6 at 6:30 PM. All families are welcome at both meetings.

Every one of these events invites a child to see the adults in their life working together. That is what "Better Together" means to me, and I hope to see you at one or more of them this month.

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Important Dates	
Oct 5-9	Week of Respect
Oct 6	BOE Meeting 6:30 PM
Oct 12	Teacher In-service - School Closed
Oct 12	PTA Meeting 6:00 PM
Oct 12-16	PTA Clothing Drive
Oct 14	Walking School Bus
Oct 16	School Picture Day
Oct 19-23	School Violence Awareness Week
Oct 19-21	PTA Scholastic Book Fair
Oct 26-30	Red Ribbon Week
Oct 30	Halloween Parade - 9:00 AM



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](#)

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, please do so soon. The students were busy focusing on the character trait of Citizenship this month. Our next character trait will be Respect. This year, the Week of Respect is Oct. 5th-9th. We are looking forward to the upcoming assembly on October 8th.

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.

- 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) and secretary (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

Our Safety Patrol teams are off to a fantastic start this school year! From day one, students have shown excitement, eagerness, and a genuine willingness to participate and serve our LBS community. Their positive energy has set the tone for a strong and successful year.

Each patrol team has shown impressive responsibility and reliability. Students arrive on time, ready to work, and consistently carry out their duties with care. Their cooperation, respectful attitudes, and kindness toward all LBS students and staff have truly stood out.

I am incredibly proud of the leadership, dedication, and enthusiasm our Safety Patrol teams bring to LBS every day. They are off to an amazing start,

and we know this year will be one to celebrate.

Art

This year, we will be doing units as a whole school, with a focus on the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Our first unit is all about the Element of Art: Line. We introduced each grade to line in a unique and age-appropriate way.

Pre-K: Pre-K artists created *Midnight Pumpkins*, using painted lines, oil pastel nighttime skies, and cut-paper grass. We also introduced them to our friend Larry the Line, a stuffed snake who helps demonstrate different types of lines, including vertical, diagonal, and horizontal. They seemed to really love our new art-room friend!

1st Grade: First graders explored line, shape, pattern, and contrast through their Turtle Line Drawings. Students filled each shell with repeated lines and expressive patterns while learning how different kinds of lines can communicate different feelings. We also incorporated a little science, learning that turtles are reptiles and that their shells contain keratin, just like our fingernails.

2nd Grade: Second graders created Dino Line Cityscapes inspired by *If the Dinosaurs Came Back* by Bernard Most. They explored line direction, cityscape design, hatching, value, and dimension. We also reviewed the primary colors, and students were challenged to use only red, yellow, and blue to add color to their dinosaurs.



3rd Grade: Third graders created self-portraits with positive affirmations, combining portrait drawing with meaningful words that celebrate confidence, individuality, and kindness. We shared *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson to inspire students to think about what makes each of us unique.

4th & 5th Grade: Fourth and fifth graders created *Animals with Attitude*, inspired by *Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses* by Kimberly and James Dean. Students used line, texture, overlap, and composition to give their animals lots of personality. We also had some fun watching an animated version of the story featuring the famously cool, sunglasses-wearing Pete the Cat, which definitely helped inspire our own animals with attitude.



Enrichment/Media/Technology

Digital Citizenship- This month, as part of our school-wide focus on **Citizenship**, Media, and Enrichment, classes for grades K–5 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!

TREP\$ - 3-5th 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 **TREP\$ MARKETPLACE in the LBS Gym- Dec. 2, 2026, 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-5th grade entrepreneurs!

Music

Happy new school year! We are so thrilled to be back in music class!

During September, we have been getting to know each other by doing activities that reflect our different musical tastes, singing, and pattern recognition.

Throughout October, we will focus on melody and rhythm across all 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 have also started a rhythm-based class that will focus on keeping a steady beat, sight-reading rhythms, and using classroom percussion instruments. To begin this class, we have been working with boomwhackers (the colored tubes that produce musical notes), and body percussion (clapping, snapping, stomping, etc.). I look forward to seeing the musical growth of our students this school year! We are looking forward to having an amazing school year!



Physical Education/Health

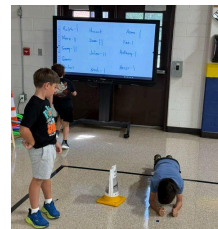
Welcome to an exciting new year at LBS Health & PE. This September, all grades have been practicing motor movements and exercises that help to build cardio, muscular strength, flexibility, and balance. Throughout the year, everyone will continue to build on progress in these different fitness components. We will practice different games, sports, activities,

and team-building skills. In Health, K-5th grade will focus on our monthly positive character trait of citizenship and the monthly grade-level subject of our Great Body Shop curriculum. In October, we will focus on throwing and catching games and activities to build proper form and execution of these skills. **Please remember that**



BETTER TOGETHER!

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 each day appropriately and has an adequate amount of water. Please email me if you have any questions or concerns. Below you will see a variety of grade levels participating in some of the fun this month.



Spanish

¡Sí! Septiembre!

In September, we have been busy learning and having fun in Spanish class! Kindergarten through 3rd grade are focusing on classroom routines at different levels, practicing greetings, classroom expectations, Spanish phrases, and routines that help us feel comfortable using Spanish in class.

Grades 4 and 5 have started our Great Pencil Challenge! Each student has received a special pencil featuring different Spanish adjectives. Throughout the year, students will participate in fun activities that help them learn and use their adjectives while building their Spanish vocabulary. There is one important rule: students must keep their pencil all year long! Students who successfully keep their pencil until the end of the year will earn a special prize!

Across all grades, we are also celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by learning about the Spanish-speaking world through culture, traditions, music, art, and important people. We are excited for a year filled with Spanish learning, creativity, and fun!



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 helps 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, and how to hold our crayons/pencils. We built mat man and started to practice coloring in our handwriting books. We have learned about a circle, star, and oval. 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. We are learning to help each other learn and share responsibilities.

In science, the kindergarten class is raising Monarch Butterflies. We have had four butterflies already emerge, and we set them free. We have three that are still in the chrysalis stage. We also have one that is still in the caterpillar stage. Earlier this month, we were lucky enough to watch a chrysalis form! They are always excited to see them each morning. They seem to really enjoy observing them through all of the stages. We have been drawing pictures and creating a butterfly observation mini book. Through these butterfly lessons and through other discussions, the kindergarten class will learn about what animals and plants need to survive.

In reading, the kindergarten class has been working on our first three sight words. We will also learn 3 more 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. We work to build our vocabulary, comprehension 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.

The students are completing many hands-on activities in our learning centers. This week we are exploring a fall sensory bin, 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 activities. They are enjoying working in these centers. 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 math. We will continue 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. This week is our apple week. We are doing many fun activities to learn more about apples. We are learning the parts of an apple. We are working on apple math and counting apples and seeds, and we will read the story: Ten Apples Up on Top this week. We are singing songs and reading books about apples and talking about 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

The First Grade students have had a wonderful start to the school year! We have spent the first few weeks building our classroom community and learning what it means to be a community of learners. In Social Studies, we began our unit on *Rules and Laws*. Students discussed the importance of classroom rules, how they help keep us safe, and how rules help our larger community work together.

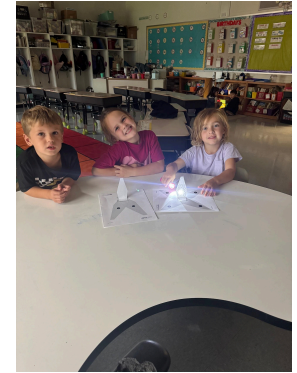




In Reading, we have been enjoying a variety of read-alouds connected to our Social Studies learning. As we read, students have been identifying characters and discussing how we can work and play safely and respectfully with others. Looking ahead, we will begin exploring realistic fiction and learning how to retell stories by identifying key characters and settings.

In Math, students have started our first module on addition strategies, including counting on and making ten. Next, we will begin learning subtraction strategies and continue building strong number sense skills.

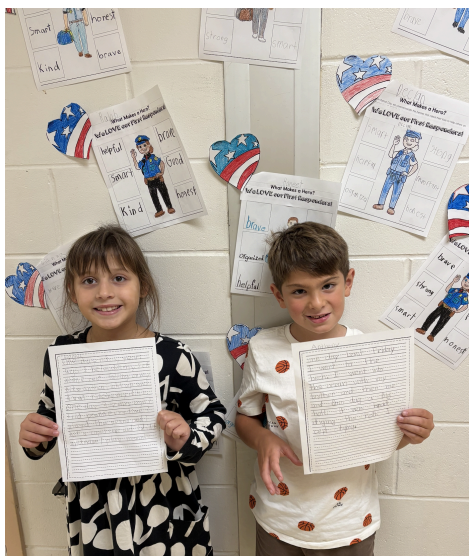
In Writing, we have been learning that writers write about things they know and that pictures and words work together to tell a story. Students have been practicing sharing their ideas through both drawings and writing. In the coming weeks, we will begin writing



personal narratives and telling stories about our own experiences.

In Science, we are beginning our study of day patterns by observing and discussing the sun and how it appears to move across the sky throughout the day. After completing this unit, we will explore night patterns and learn about the moon and stars.

We are so proud of our First Grade learners and look forward to all the exciting learning and growing ahead this year!



Second Grade

Second Grade has had a wonderful start to the new school year! We have been busy learning, growing, and getting to know one another. Our September theme, “Popping Personalities!”, gave us a fun way to begin our year together. Students enjoyed our Pop-Tart-themed writing activity as they thought about and shared the unique qualities that make each of them special. Math has been especially exciting! We have been using our double facts and “making a ten” strategy to solve more complex word problems. We have also been learning about arrays and repeated addition while discovering how these ideas connect to multiplication. Students have learned new math games and have had many opportunities to work together using engaging math tools and hands-on materials. Next month, we will explore data and learn how information can be collected, displayed, and used to help us understand the world around us. We will also continue strengthening our addition and subtraction skills as we tackle one-

and two-step word problems. In reading, we have been focusing on Realistic Fiction. We have enjoyed stories about places and experiences that feel familiar and have discussed how our surroundings can influence the characters and their stories. We have also been enjoying a poetry unit! Students are learning how to listen closely to a poem’s beat and identify its rhyme scheme. Our September poems have been a favorite, especially the Grandparents’ Day poem. We are looking forward to sharing them with our special guests soon! This month, we also became poets ourselves as we wrote descriptive fall poems, using vivid words and details to help our readers picture the beauty of the season.

We were proud to recognize our First Responders this month. Students reflected on the important character traits—such as courage, kindness, responsibility, and helpfulness—that we see in those who serve and support us during difficult times. We are so grateful for all that they do for our communities! In

Science, we have been developing our understanding of plants and seed dispersal. Students were amazed to discover that some seeds can travel incredibly far—even across oceans! To bring our learning to life, we became engineers and designed our own seed models. Students explored how the structure and design of a seed can help it travel from one place to another. It was wonderful to see their curiosity in action! Our Social Studies learning has taken us around the world! We have been mapping the continents and oceans and learning about the Equator and Prime Meridian. Students have also been practicing their cardinal directions and using them to describe location. We also created posters celebrating good citizenship. Through our discussions, students learned that certain behaviors—such as being respectful, responsible, helpful, and cooperative—help create strong, caring communities. What a busy and exciting September! We are looking forward to all the learning and fun that October will bring!



Third Grade

Our Third Grade learners have been busy building foundational skills and exploring new ideas across all subject areas! In **Math**, students are learning to describe and extend number patterns, identify patterns on an addition table, and recognize numbers and sums as odd or even. In **Phonics and Spelling**, we are identifying vowels and consonants, reviewing short-vowel sounds, and applying our **C.U.P.S.** checklist to strengthen our writing with correct capitals, understanding, punctuation, and spelling. In **Writing**, students have responded to journal prompts, drafted Fall Narratives, and practiced the **R.A.C.E.** strategy for constructing thoughtful written responses. During our literacy block, we are enjoying *Wombat Waiting* by the fabulous Katherine Applegate and diving into our first unit on **folktales, myths, and legends**. We have also begun our cursive handwriting program, learning to form the “Magic C” and its friends. In **Science**, our unit on *Habitats, Fossils, and Environments Over Time* has students investigating fascinating questions such as, “Where Can You Find Whales in the Desert?” “How Do We Know What Dinosaurs Looked Like?”, and “Can You Outrun a Dinosaur?” In **Social Studies**, we discussed and learned about community, community helpers, and the important roles our community responders and heroes play in our lives. As part of a “Remembering 9/11” lesson, the students created Thank You cards for our local heroes. Our first S.T.E.A.M. challenge was spectacular, and the students thoroughly enjoyed their challenge of creating a standing structure using only five sheets of paper, tape, and scissors! It has been an exciting start to the year filled with learning, curiosity, and discovery!



Fourth/Fifth Grades

The last vinyl '45 rpm singles were pressed in the early 1990's, but the 4th and 5th grade class is bringing the medium back in 2026 and 2027! After settling in and getting to know their classmates, students in both grades reflected on their interests inside and outside of the walls of Lebanon Borough School. Each student set a goal for the school year ahead and turned that goal into their own hit record! They chose a

title for their song, founded their own "record label", designed an album cover, and decorated their own '45 for everyone at LBS to enjoy. We've also explored the history and cultural impact of vinyl records, as well as the science behind how they are produced and played. It's been a fun way to kick off a "record-setting" year here at LBS!

Beyond the musical nostalgia, our class is now well into our core subjects. In math, both classes are exploring the importance of place value, as 4th grade learns about rounding and expanded form and 5th grade explores exponents and powers of ten. In science, we're beginning with the Web of Life unit, which explores food chains, how matter passes from one organism to another, and exactly where plants get all of their material... given that they can't eat! And in language arts, we've been reading science fiction, fantasy, and realistic stories to get ready to write our own short stories, some of which will be entered into the Hunterdon County Library's annual fall contest.

The 4th and 5th grade class looks forward to reporting our activities here in The Wildcat throughout the school year and wishes everyone a wonderful Fall!



[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