

Long Beach Island Consolidated School District

“Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report, November 2023

November



As we begin the second marking period and break for the Thanksgiving holiday, we express our heartfelt gratitude to all who help make the Long Beach Island Consolidated School District a dynamic place to engage in learning.

All staff and students celebrated the service of our U.S. military veterans, the men and women who served or still serve America in each of our armed services. Their extraordinary accomplishments, their perseverance, character, and discipline are the traits instilled as part of every man and woman within all our U.S. military services. To all of the U.S. military services protecting America.... we say thank you.

Special thanks to our Board of Education members for their dedication and volunteerism to the district. You give your time and talents so all students have opportunities to become lifelong learners.

To our district administrative team, teachers, staff and Parent Teacher Association members who all work together to plan, implement and make certain our students are safe while learning and growing. Thank you! It’s wonderful for everyone to experience the many scheduled activities and events held throughout the school year.

Many thanks to our members of surrounding towns and communities; Mayors, Councils, Fire and Police Departments and Local Organizations who support our schools throughout the year. We appreciate your commitment to our students and school community!

We are especially grateful for our dedicated parents and our creative, energetic, resourceful and kind students. Parents, thank you for entrusting us and being part of this truly special place.

This Thanksgiving is a great time for all of us to reflect on family, friends, and our school community. In the spirit of giving to others, our students have been working to give time, support, and encouragement to their peers through many activities here at the Long Beach Island School District.

We are in the final home stretch of our new website project and preparing to launch. This has been a challenging project, and we want to thank Shelley Smith and Bill Deren for their time and dedication to this process as we have some great resources to help our students and families.

Many thanks,

Dr. Peter Kopack

Veterans Day 2023

Our school-wide observance of Veterans Day looked a little different this year. At the suggestion of the local Manahawkin Elks Lodge liaison for Veterans Affairs, Sharon McGovern, the LBI Grade School students created greeting cards for Veterans who live at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland. There are almost 300 veterans, some of whom have spouses living with them, residing there. We were told they get very excited whenever people reach out to them whether it's in person or with mail as many are very lonely.

During social studies/tech classes, our 5th & 6th graders researched the origin of Veterans Day as well as how the government takes care of veterans in need by providing housing and healthcare. Under Mr. Cotov's direction, the Ukulele band recorded a patriotic song to share with the veterans. Sharon McGovern, and Deborah England, the Exalted Ruler of the Manahawkin Elks Lodge, were invited to join us on November 2nd for a photograph with all the students and their cards. The Ukulele Band gave a live performance of *God Bless America*.



Parent Teacher Association

We would like to thank our PTA for their continued support. Thank you to all of the parents and teachers for their time and effort especially at the PTA Book Fair, LEAD U and BMX assemblies - all went as planned...many thanks to all for a job well done! We are looking forward to the many learning activities planned. Please make sure to sign up to become a member of the PTA.

Thank you so much for your support of our inaugural "Change Challenge." Drum Roll please...And the winners are...The students and teachers in..Mrs Kraus's class and Mrs Freeman's class. These two classes will each get a book for each student and a teacher bonus allowance. Information will be emailed to Mrs Kraus and Mrs Freeman this week.

The LBI-PTA is once again selling **FUN DAY** passes to **Thundering Surf Water Park and Settlers Mill Adventure Golf**. Passes are **\$37.00** each.

Spirit Wear is also on sale with an order deadline of **November 22nd**. If you are interested in participating in any of these events/fundraisers, order forms and further information are available on the district [website](#).

The Annual Holiday Gift Auction will be held on **December 9th at 4:30 p.m. at the LBI Foundation in Loveladies**. We hope you will join us this year for a fun-filled evening out with amazing prizes, great food, and live music.

How to Help:

- Buy tickets early - they will sell out! ([click here to order](#))
- Volunteer to help set-up, work the event, or clean-up. We'll send a form closer to the event.
- If you own a business and would like to contribute a prize or become a sponsor, please email marcibleam.lbipta@gmail.com

The next PTA meeting is **Thursday, November 16th at 4:30 p.m. in the LBI Media Center**. All are invited to attend.



Book Fair during conferences at EJ and LBI!

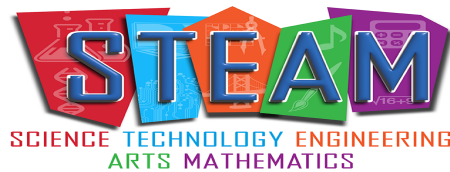




Happy Halloween from the EJ and LBI Staff!



The LBI School District collected **620** pairs of socks for the Kiwanis of LBI Socktober Happy Feet Campaign. The socks were presented to the Kiwanis Club at an assembly on Monday, October 30th and they presented our school district with a Certificate of Appreciation. This is the 8th year that we have participated in the Happy Feet Campaign.



6th Grade

In 6th grade science, the students are diving into the exploration of cells and characteristics of life. They are asking great questions and enjoying the discovery of the way the human body reacts to viruses, stress, and the role of cells in various organisms. Our students have also been working toward figuring out how our bodies get and use energy. Using our new high-powered microscopes, microscopic digital images, virtual microscopes, and informational text to investigate living things, students have been developing and using 3D models to explain the structure and function of cells including specialized cells in the human body.

In our integrated science-technology class, students have been researching impacts of climate change on animals and creating informative, artistic presentations to share with their peers. Examples of student-selected project formats include stop motion animations, digital slideshows, podcasts and videos.

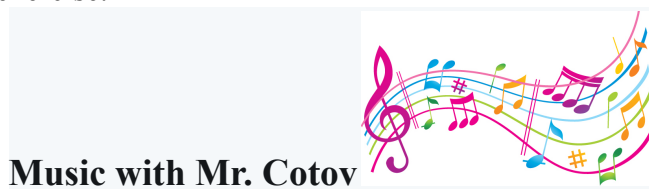
5th Grade

Through student-generated investigations, informational text as well as interactive computer models and 2D and 3D models, our fifth grade scientists have been figuring out the ways matter changes and how these changes follow the law of conservation of matter. Collaboratively, students have planned and conducted their own investigations and participated in student-led discussions to collect evidence for explaining the ways matter can change. During these student-led discussions involving high-level inquiry-based learning, students were working like scientists while improving their problem-solving skills as well as their communication and social skills.

In our integrated science-technology class, students have been researching student-generated, scientific questions for our Wonder Day Project. Students are using their research to create informative presentations for their peers. Examples of projects include digital slideshows, videos, and podcasts.

4th Grade

Students have been planning and conducting investigations and developing and using models to figure out the structure and function of the parts of the human body as well as their interdependence. Students also have been collecting and analyzing data to explain how exercise affects the body by measuring heart rate before and after exercise.



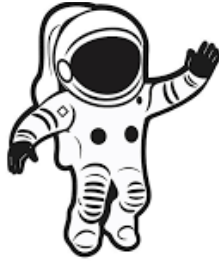
Our EJ students have started singing songs for Thanksgiving including "Don't Be a Turkey" with Mr. Cotov accompanying on piano. They learned reading skills by sounding out lyrics from "Our Veterans" as well. In the LBI Grade School, students prepared materials for the Veteran's Day event. In music class, our older students are hard at work learning "Glad For Their Thanksgiving" in 2-part harmony. All instrumental ensembles are getting ready for December concerts with all-new arrangements by their teacher.

EJ AND LBI SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

After our November break, we will be starting our "soccer" unit. We will start out with the basics. This will include ball control (dribbling), passing using the flat part of our foot, trapping the ball for control, shooting towards a target, and defending a goal.

In Health class, we have been discussing what makes a "Fantastic Friend." This included conversations on what makes a nice friend compared to a "not" nice friend. The students took a pledge in class to always be a "Fantastic Friend." In addition, the students will be working on creating a healthy daily diet. They will be deciding what to eat for breakfast, lunch, dinner, as well as snacks in between. I'm looking forward to the next few months as we look to begin our second sport unit.....Basketball!! Keep up the great work boys and girls!!

Preschool News



This month, we will be learning about Space. We will learn about all of the other planets. We will talk about what we see in the sky during the day and night. We will explore astronauts and what their jobs are. Our dramatic play area will be a Space Area where we can pretend to be an astronaut, explore space, and control a rocketship.

We are doing a lot of fine motor activities to help build our finger muscles for our handwriting. We use clothespins and tweezers to pick up items. We are stringing beads on a string and putting rubber bands on things. For our literacy lessons, we are learning the letters (J, K, P, U, B, and R). In math, we are learning about the numbers 1-10. We will learn how to make ten frames and tally marks.

Kindergarten Crew November Happenings



It's hard to believe that it is November already. After recharging during Fall Break, we are ready to take on the rest of this month. In Word Work and Reading, we will continue to learn new sight words and work on learning letters and their sounds to build words. It is so exciting to put all of our knowledge into our writing! In math, we will continue to work on counting to 10 and begin to use numbers to count and classify data. In Social Studies, we will be learning about Native Americans, Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving. We will be creating crafts to coincide with the holiday as we learn about Native American and Pilgrim lives. We are excited to complete our third Kindergarten Directed Drawing of a turkey! We are a thankful Crew and will be talking about all of the things we have to be grateful for in our lives!

First Grade



First graders studied paintings of apples from famous artists and then created their own!

Well, here we are... We cannot believe we are in November already! Wow! Where is the time going? 2023 is quickly coming to an end. We started out the year with a new seating arrangement and the children have really grown comfortable with our routines and expectations. We are really rocking and rolling in here-literally! In the beginning of the month, we were introduced to blending letters to form new sounds. We started out with -r blends (ex. drip), then we moved onto more complex -r blends (throb), and now we are moving on to other blends to include the letter "l" (ex. flip, slip, blob).

We recently had a homework assignment to disguise a turkey. We had students create soccer players, peacocks, football players, Starbucks turkeys, and turkeys hiding in underwater scuba gear. The students are now in the process of creating stories to tell about their turkeys. This is a lengthy process, and the children are really enjoying each step involved. We started out describing our turkeys using adjectives, which we then turned into sentences. We are now using a different graphic organizer to help us lay out our thoughts to help us create magnificent beginnings, middles and endings. These writing pieces are turning into beautiful masterpieces!

In Math, we have learned various ways to add and subtract. We are now using these techniques to help us with our subtraction facts to 20. We made cute turkey 10-frames to help us with this!

Our focus in Science has been on space. We are learning that the universe is a vast place which includes our galaxy (The Milky Way) and within our galaxy you can find our solar system. We are learning that because of the Sun and the Earth we have patterns: day and night and our four seasons. We also learned that it takes the Earth one full day to rotate and a year to orbit the sun. This unit has been a lot of fun! Be on the lookout for our Planet projects! The children are really enjoying themselves.

In Social Studies, we are continuing to focus on leaders and diving a bit deeper into what a democracy is. Since election day just passed, we are choosing to learn a bit more about the voting process. We will soon be doing our own vote on who should be president--Duck or Farmer Brown. And with Christmas just around the corner, we decided to take the kids around the world. First grade will be "traveling" around the world to various countries to learn what holidays are celebrated and how they are celebrated. We are really having a magnificent time here in first grade. Don't you wish you could fly back in time to be a first grader again...?

SECOND GRADE

Second graders are back from break and ready to take on their work and responsibilities. In Spelling, students are learning about the vowel teams "ee" and "ea." and the rule "When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking." In ELA, second graders are reading informational texts about how families work together to meet their needs. Students will learn how to use text features and evidence to identify the central idea and the author's opinion. Students will then go on to write an expository essay, utilizing the writing process to communicate their ideas.

In Math, second graders have learned to add two-digit numbers using the traditional method of lining up the addends vertically to solve. With this strategy, students have learned how and when to regroup. Next, second graders will be working with three-digit numbers, using various strategies including the vertical addition method to solve equations.

In Social Studies, students have been learning about families and changes over time. They are learning how photographs, artifacts and family trees can help them to find out more about a family's history.

In Science, second graders are completing their unit on describing matter, focusing on liquids and gasses. They have enjoyed working cooperatively on various hands-on activities to help them learn about this topic. Speaking of hands-on activities, second graders used the engineering design process to design and build pumpkin towers. If you have not done so already, please check out the showcase at EJ where these second grade projects are on display. The students worked very hard and really enjoyed this activity!

THIRD GRADE

In Math, third graders are continuing to master the concept of multiplication and basic multiplication facts. They are finding their favorite strategy and using songs and games to help. During Writing, they are applying their narrative writing skills to write stories with paragraphs and dialogue. In Science, the students continue to learn about the different types of force - some that can be seen and some that cannot. In Reading, they have been improving their reading skills by practicing reading and writing about their reading in different genres. Social Studies is preparing them for elections and voting by learning about the different parts and people of our government.

Fourth Grade

We are thankful for so much - and our "Turkey Top Ten" project lets people know just how we feel! They will be on display in our hallway, and will be sent home in time for the holiday. November is an exciting month for us as we work on perfecting our multiplication skills using multi-digit numbers. In Science, we are learning about Body Systems.

We are continuing our travels across the country, learning the States and Capitals for each region of our great land. We are thankful to be able to use our Chromebooks daily in the classroom, for many purposes. Students use them each week to develop their vocabulary lists, publish their writing, work on iReady, and complete many other assigned projects. What a wonderful opportunity it is for our students to be able to use technology for academics each and every day!

Fifth Grade

The 5th Graders cannot believe they are almost finished with the first marking period! They have been working hard in all of their subjects. In ELA they are starting their novel study on *Esperanza Rising* (a historical fiction novel by Pam Munoz). They are starting their narrative writing this month. In Social Studies they finished the Native American unit and now are going to learn about different explorers. They worked hard on a Veterans Day activity. They have been enjoying the different PEP classes.

Sixth Grade

In ELA and Technology classes, the 6th grade students have begun a unit on career exploration. This started with a career interest inventory which identified possible career paths for each student. After identifying a first choice career path, the students spent time researching the responsibilities, educational requirements, and salary ranges. This information will be compiled into a formal research paper in the coming weeks. In 6th grade science, the students are diving into the exploration of cells and characteristics of life. They are asking great questions and enjoying the discovery of the way the human body reacts to viruses, stress, and the role of cells in various organisms.

GARDEN NEWS

Happy November! This month the garden bows down to winter with the planting of 100 cloves of garlic. All grade levels participated. Thanks Mr. La Marco for your help with the planting. Kindergarten completed the finishing touches by putting the garden to sleep under a cozy blanket of straw. See you in the Spring!

