

Long Beach Island Consolidated School District

“Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report, January 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's hard to believe the third marking period starts on Monday, February 5th! As we look forward to the second half of the school year, our staff continues to develop innovative learning experiences that promote student achievement. Students are excited to build, create and collaborate with their classmates on projects and special assignments.

This is an exciting month as we held our 6th Grade Career Day on January 12th. This was a cross-curricular event that walked students through the selection of a career path, research on that career and interviewing for the job. Special thanks to all our parent volunteers who came in the morning or afternoon to assist by interviewing students and to speak about their careers paths and experiences. The students had an amazing day!

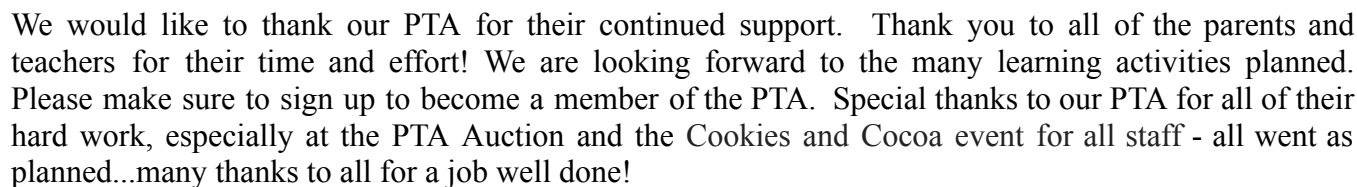
The 5th and 6th grade students will share their experiences and usage of Finch Robots with Microbit Technology through a presentation and hands-on explanation at TECHSPO '24 in Atlantic City on January 26th.. The Finch robot is a fun, programmable robot which brings computer science to life! This robot, designed for students ages 5 and up, comes pre-assembled and runs on Microbit program technology. The Finch robot can also support programming through block-based coding such as Snap and MakeCode for younger students as well as JavaScript and Python for older students. The Finch Robot can be used throughout many cross-curricular activities in computer science classes, math, and science.

The next Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting is scheduled for February 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the LBI Grade School Media Center. We look forward to working together to plan and organize activities for the upcoming months. Through an active PTA, school district special events will enhance the curriculum. These events not only highlight educational experiences, but instill in our students a sense of family, pride, and school spirit. Please make every effort to support our PTA by volunteering your time.

We wish you a Happy New Year, and we look forward to working together to promote the best possible educational experiences for the students. We thank you for your continued support.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Peter Kopack



Our sixth grade students have been involved in figuring out the functions of human body systems through hands-on activities, student investigations, and models. Classroom activities involved modeling the structure and function of the brain, and testing reaction time to investigate and explain the nervous system pathways and functions. In addition, students investigated mechanisms involved in the movement of materials into and out of cells. Specifically, students have been investigating osmosis and the importance of this process in keeping the body balanced. To figure out this important function, students developed investigations on two different scales: microscopic and macroscopic. First, students compared microscopic images of onion skin cells in saltwater and freshwater, and then planned and conducted investigations to test the effects of salt water on potato cells. As a final component of this instructional unit involving body systems, students investigated the nutritional value of foods using informational text and digital graphing technology, and then collaborated to plan healthy meals.

5th Grade

Our fifth grade scientists have been figuring out how Earth's systems interact by investigating all of Earth's Systems and how they work. Through many hands-on investigations as well as 2D and 3D models and computer models (simulations), students have explored examples of these systems along with Earth system processes (such as the Greenhouse Effect and rain shadows), and explained how the systems interact. For example, students used computer models to simulate runoff in their watershed and tested ways to reduce runoff. These students then explored our local systems and planned and conducted investigations using 3D models to test the effects of changes on these system interactions.

4th Grade

As an introduction to our Energy Unit, our fourth grade students have been figuring out how starting height affects the speed of objects down ramps. Students planned and conducted investigations to test the effects of starting height on how fast objects travel. Using toy balls, ramps, meter sticks, and stopwatches, students measured and recorded the speed of the balls released from different heights on ramps. Then, students constructed explanations using evidence from the investigations to support their responses.

3rd Grade

Our third grade students concluded their unit on Forces and Motion with an engineering design problem involving how rockets move. Students designed balloon rockets to model the motion of rockets and explain the forces involved in their movement. Students inflated balloons and released them along a fishing line in the classroom. They measured the distance the balloon rockets traveled horizontally as well as vertically and compared the results. Finally, students constructed explanations using evidence to explain the forces involved in the motion of rockets.

Finch Robots Club

Our new Finch Robots after school club has been well attended by our fifth and sixth grade students working collaboratively in groups. Participants have been excitedly working with the new Finch Robots using block-based coding to manipulate the robots for performing tasks, creating art and music, and playing games. Next, we will be exploring the math components with the robots.

Music with Mr. Cotov



The music department is entering an exciting time: many weeks of exploration and refinement. In our band, new scales and songs are being learned weekly, but old concepts such as breathing, posture and tone control is reinforced. The violin program has never been stronger. Under the direction of Mr. Cotov, the program continues to add new players. They are learning major and minor scales, new bowing techniques and many new songs.

Mr. Cotov is so proud to add new chorus members as we explore classics, and pop and rock hits from all decades. Our music classes are singing songs to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. We will also sing about our early Presidents, Punxsutawney Phil, and Valentine's Day.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

As the "cold" winter months arrive here at EJ and LBI we are looking forward to the start of the EJ Hockey Unit. The students will practice puck/ball control, passing, shooting towards a target, offensive and defensive strategies. We have also continued our fitness journey. We are playing games to work on our muscular strength and fitness. The students enjoy playing "Fitness Four Corners." This activity allowed us to work on our push-ups, squat jumps, jumping jacks, and burpees. We also tried the Pull-Up challenge. Everyone did a great job!

Students in grades 3-6 will be participating in the exciting team sport of volleyball. In Health we will continue to work on fitness goals that we started after the New Year. Students picked two exercises they wanted to improve on. A friendly reminder as the weather gets "colder" we are going to have OUTSIDE recess as much as possible. Please remember winter coats, hats, and gloves.

PREK JANUARY 2024

This month, our theme is Winter. We will be exploring winter animals, snowmen, winter sports and igloos. In the winter, there are so many animals that hibernate and migrate. We read Scholastic's My Big World magazine - A Puffin is not a Penguin and A New Coat for Winter. This will teach us all about these different animals even more! In our dramatic play, it will be a ski resort. We will discover snowboarding, skiing, and the different types of mountains and trails. We will use our imagination to pretend that it is cold. Our sensory bin has fake snow so we will play with that and make snowballs!

For our literacy lessons, we are learning how to write letters with straight and curved lines. We are also exploring rhyming words. Every day, we will be focusing on a different set of rhyming words and using nursery rhymes to find even more words! In math, we are learning how to add numbers 1-5 and how to write the numbers 6-10.

We will also be having parents and other family members visiting our room to be a Mystery Reader. We have Mystery Readers come in from January to March.

Kindergarten Crew January Happenings



Welcome to 2024! In Kindergarten we are hitting the ground running as we come back from winter break. We started off discussing the new year. These Kinder Kids are going to shine bright in 2024! In Word Work we will continue to explore and learn letter sound relationships and work on word building to improve our writing.

In Reading we will continue to build our vocabulary, think about essential questions, work on comprehension skills and strategies in order to interact with a variety of texts. We are looking forward to beginning small reading groups! In Math we are becoming addition experts and will start learning subtraction! We are continuing to practice and improve our number sense. In Science we will be exploring weather. In Social Studies we will discuss Martin Luther King and the importance of peace and unity. We will be creating crafts and projects centered around winter, seasons, and unity. It's sure going to be a busy and fun month of learning in Kindergarten!

First Grade

WOW! We are just about halfway through the 2023-2024 school year! Can you believe it? I am not sure how it happened so quickly, but here we are! The children are really grasping onto the concept of printed language. We have tackled many skills and strategies in our phonics program. We have recently covered beginning and ending blends. We are now moving into more involved ending blends; such blends include "Kind Old Ghosts are Wild" (-old, -olt, -ild, -ind, and -ost) and -ng and -nk blends. These blends are quite tricky, so we will spend quite a bit of time on them. We will also continue to work on synonyms and antonyms, common and proper nouns, and singular and plural nouns (including subject/verb agreement). These little tykes are taking on so much knowledge, and are really working to apply these skills within everyday language acquisition! It is really quite impressive!

We are wrapping up Earth's Surface in Science! The children have had an awesome time learning about this. Soon we will be diving into living and nonliving things and how to use properties to correctly identify something that is living. In math, we are taking a bit of a break from addition and subtraction while we move on to place value and understanding what "tens" and "ones" are. We are continuing to dive into the geography of Earth and learning about our seven continents and five oceans. We are learning about the various landforms and bodies of water, while also gaining a better understanding of what natural resources are and how we can conserve and protect them by not being wasteful. Please stay tuned for upcoming events. We are looking forward to having classroom visits sometime in the near future!

SECOND GRADE

Second graders came back from break rested and ready to work this month! In ELA, students began the month by researching their favorite animal and writing an informational paragraph with facts, supporting details and transitional phrases. Then, they typed their writing in a Google Doc, where they learned how to include a photograph and highlight text to make their paragraphs really pop! Students' published writing is on display this month outside the second grade classrooms. Next, through the Wonders Series, students are learning more about fables and the lessons that can be learned from them. They will be discussing characters and identifying the author's purpose. In Orton this month, second grade students have been working with words that have "Bossy R" sounds.

Second graders have begun to focus on subtraction in Math. They started by reviewing basic subtraction facts. Now, students are learning strategies for subtracting 2-digit numbers. In Science, second graders are wrapping up a unit on how matter changes. They have been studying reversible and irreversible changes. In Social Studies, second graders have been learning geography skills, such as landforms and the differences between a map versus a globe.

Next, the students will be learning about the reasons why people migrate to certain areas. In addition to their animal paragraphs on display, second graders just completed an "I have a dream" project in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Their words for a more peaceful world are on display in the EJ hallway.

THIRD GRADE

Third graders are becoming multiplication masters! They have been continuing to work on multiplying and dividing fluently. They have been enjoying reading expository texts about the Earth and the solar system. They have been having so much fun exploring the force using balloon powered rockets in the Science Lab. The third graders have done a beautiful job writing poems inspired by famous poets. They also listened to books and watched videos about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The students especially enjoyed seeing and hearing his famous speech at the Lincoln Memorial.

Fourth Grade

Welcome 2024! Long Division is our main focus in Math for the beginning of this year. Our Science Tech Google Earth Projects are being presented in class, and we will be starting a new activity soon. Learning about energy and motion in Science Lab has been a lot of fun. Reading and Math skills are getting stronger with our use of the i-Ready program each week. We are continuing to learn all 50 US States and Capitals by challenging ourselves online, practicing together, and working with flashcards frequently. We have much to be grateful for as we begin a new year, and a lot of fun learning in store for the months ahead!

Fifth Grade

The fifth graders have been analyzing nonfiction in ELA. They have been annotating numerous articles and are becoming pros at identifying text structure, text features and other elements of nonfiction. In Social Studies they are about to embark on a journey through the 13 colonies. They had a blast during Career Day hearing from professionals in jobs that they are interested in. We are really in the swing of things and having a fun filled year!

Sixth Grade

The sixth grade students have been engaged in a cross-curricular unit which focuses on investigating possible career paths. Students have completed career interest inventory, researched a selected career of their choice and presented their findings in a formal research paper.

The culminating event was an interactive Career Day on Friday, January 12, 2024. During the morning session, students interviewed for a job in their selected career. Several Board of Education members will be acting as potential employers. To prepare for the mock interview, students composed cover letters, resumes and practiced responses to questions that they may be asked.

During the afternoon session, numerous professionals from the community, including several parents and LBI School District graduates, gave a brief overview about their profession. These included: a professional musician, chef & restaurant owner, chiropractor, fire chief, police officer, flight attendant, high school teacher, photographer, architect, software programmer/coder, & data scientist. This culminating event provided a great opportunity to bring the community into the classroom and solidify the link between the lessons learned each day and the students' future.