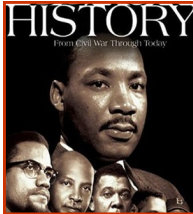




# LADSBS News...



## Mr. Zito and Mrs. Farley would like to share. . .

### Important February Dates:

- 1 [Give Back Day](#)  
Registration Sign-Up
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 5-9 Kindness Spirit Week, LADSBS
- 9 P.S. I Love You Day,  
wear **Purple**
- 15 [Grade 4 Math Escape Room](#), 5:30-7:00 pm  
LADSBS
- 15 Athletes Helping Athletes Program,  
Grade 5
- 19-23  
Mid-Winter Recess  
Schools Closed
- 28 Board of Ed Meeting, 8:00 pm,  
MPHS

As we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school our students and teachers have well established routines, and we are focused on advancing students academically, socially, and emotionally. Our students are gaining insight on how kindness and respect play an important role in academic success.

Our clubs are off to a great start, and we appreciate your patience as we get students into the building on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. One example of the skills and opportunities your children gain through clubs comes from our Digital Media Club. Each week the students create a weekly newsletter and a news broadcast to be shared with their classmates throughout LADSBS. Be sure to check our [Panther Times](#)!

Last month, our students participated in STEAM night and had the opportunity to engage in a variety of hands-on activities. All of our students celebrated Peace and Kindness Day in January. The students worked together to create a "Blizzard of Kindness" using snowflakes with personalized messages of good deeds.

Throughout February we will be celebrating Black History Month and are getting ready for the big game with Super Bowl Spirit Day. We are also inviting each student to bring in a canned good to participate in the "SOUP-er Bowl" Fundraiser from February 1<sup>st</sup> until February 9<sup>th</sup>. Students will put their can into the box labeled with the team they think will win the Super Bowl. All cans collected will be donated to our local food pantry.

February 5<sup>th</sup>—9<sup>th</sup> is Kindness Week! There will be a different theme of kindness celebrated each day. P.S. I Love You Day will be recognized on **Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**. All staff and students are invited to wear the color purple. Our teachers have been working diligently on decorating their classroom doors with messages of anti-bullying and kindness.

This month our 4<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend our [Escape Room](#) event organized by the School Improvement Team. This will take place on February 15<sup>th</sup>. We are also busy organizing "March Book Madness" to coincide with Read Across America Day on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

With the snowy weather upon us, please make sure we have your alternate afternoon plans should we need to close school early. It is also important that you are aware that morning and aftercare are closed when school is closed, delayed, or released early, so that is not a viable childcare option during inclement weather closures. Lastly, with six weeks remaining in the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester, please communicate with your child's teacher any concerns you may have. When we work together everyone benefits!

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said- People will forget what you did. - But People will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou*

## Fifth Grade Flash . . .

Happy New Year! We were excited to welcome back our fifth grade students for the 2024 year! We hope everyone enjoyed the additional time spent with family members and loved ones. To kick off the new year, the fifth grade classes discussed personal goals they could work on and made resolutions to work towards achieving those goals. Some classes learned about how different cultures around the world celebrate the New Year through compare and contrast, constructive response, and even a New Years Around the World essay!

In Math, we continue to explore and build upon our love and knowledge of fractions! In Module 4, we will learn to multiply fractions and decimal fractions, and begin to work with fraction division. In ELA, we completed our novel study on Esperanza Rising, which the students really enjoyed! Up next, Hatchet! In the meantime, classes have returned to practicing their reading skills with a variety of texts using HMH Into Reading. In Science, the fifth grade is investigating Earth's Systems by developing and using system models to explore interactions among Earth's atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere, and hydrosphere. In Social Studies, we are discovering the ancient civilizations of the Mayan, Incan, and Aztec people. Moving forward, we will look to study various explorers and the Columbian Exchange.

Looking forward, we have P.S. I Love You Day on February 9<sup>th</sup> where the students are invited to wear purple and spread positive messages that make everyone feel special, loved, and reminded that they are never alone. The "Million Word Challenge" is still in the works, so keep encouraging your child to read and log each night! There is still another chance to win!

As always, we appreciate your continued support in and outside of the classroom!

## Third Grade Thoughts . . .



We're kicking off 2024 with a great start! Our third graders have been exploring Module 4 in Math, where students focused on "finding the area". Students explore area as an attribute of two-dimensional figures and relate it to their prior understandings of multiplication. As always, we encourage students to continue practicing their multiplication facts at home. In ELA, students were introduced to Module 3 titled "Let Freedom Ring", which uses a variety of texts and media focusing on important U.S. documents and symbols. Students also focused on different reading skills including central ideas, media techniques, summarizing, retelling, and sequencing. This unit pairs up to our Social Studies unit of "U.S. Government", where we focus on the importance of our government, the branches, and how the United States of America was formed to what it is today.

Also, students will be introduced to our new Science unit titled "Invisible Forces". Students will discover how unbalanced forces affect motion of an object, magnetism, and static electricity. Students will also get to explore Rube Goldberg machines and how they function.

As the school year continues, our third graders continue to work hard and we're so proud of them. Keep up the great work!

## Fourth Grade Focus. . .

Happy February! This month is filled with events and activities that we love, and a lot of great learning too! For the month of February, all fourth grade teachers will be promoting kindness through a variety of activities. We will begin by discussing the importance of being kind and ways we can show kindness. We will then be challenging students to complete acts of kindness over the month to show just how thoughtful and kind they are. Students will be noticing the acts of kindness made by others through shading in a heart every time they witness an act of kindness, or when an act of kindness is done for them. We are excited to see and hear all about the kind acts our fourth graders will be doing!

Additionally, our Million Word Challenge is well underway, which class will read the most words? We will find out in March!



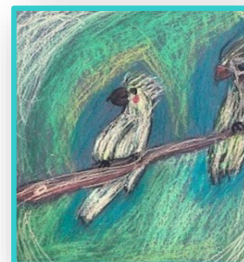
For our learning this month, we will continue to learn about fractions and use them with multi-operational strategies. In ELA, we will continue to practice a variety of reading skills and strategies while exploring new stories, and we will continue to write strong opinion/persuasive writing pieces. In science, our next science unit is called, “A Walk in the Park” where we will learn all about how living and nonliving things work together in systems in order for organisms to survive. In social studies, we will be learning about Native Americans in the Northeast. We will be learning about Black History month, and the impactful and inspirational people we look up to today. Later on, we will learn about the European Explorers and the affects their arrival had on the Native Americans. We are looking forward to a wonderful month full of kindness and learning!

## Escape Night 🎉🎉

The LADSBS School Improvement Team has been working hard to create new and exciting events for our students and families. On Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-7:00 p.m., we will be hosting a “[Math Escape Room](#)” for our *fourth grade students only*. This evening will begin with a building-wide scavenger hunt before students are given the opportunity to “escape” from the classroom they are assigned. If you and your child plan on attending, please register by completing the Google Form which was sent out last week as well as posted on our website. You won’t be able to “escape” the fun during this event—we hope to see you there!

## Art-I-Facts. . .

The work our students have been doing is so impressive! Third graders just completed a bird study, where they selected a bird to research and draw. After the initial pencil drawing on dark colored paper, we examined the texture of feathers and then used that knowledge to create the implied texture of fluffy, layered feathers using oil pastels. It was a BIG task, but the students definitely delivered!



Fourth graders recently learned how neon signs are made and are now mixing tints and shades of neon colors to create a painting to resemble a custom neon sign of their own. Finally, fifth graders got to spend a few art classes learning the ins and outs of monoprinting. Using a gelli printing plate, students were able to experiment with different texture plates, stencils and even fabrics to create some really nuanced monoprints.





## Kindness Corner...

Last month, our community celebrated Peace and Kindness Day on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Students came together in unity to show support of one another by decorating a “Blizzard of Kindness”. During lunch periods, each student received a snowflake and was asked to write about a good deed they have done or did for someone else. Our “blizzard” surrounds a snowman inside our cafeteria to remind us to stay peaceful and kind each and every day!



Congratulations to our January Kindness Coupon winners:

**Hannah Brussee, Madison Toner, Caden O'Malley,  
Wyatt Adler, Ella Cassidy, Tyler Carrieri**

Thank you all for keeping up the kindness!



Our Kindness initiatives will be continuing through the month of February! We will be celebrating with a Kindness Spirit Week beginning on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, ending with our district wide participation in P.S. I Love You Day on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. In recognition for P.S. I Love You, we are asking all students and staff to wear the color purple, showing support and encouragement to spread love to the world, others, and most importantly yourself.

## Kindness Week

**Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

“Kick Off Kindness” Wear your favorite team Jersey!

**Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**

“Peace-Love-Kindness” Wear Tie-Dye or Bright Colors

**Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

“Crazy for Kindness” Wear Crazy Clothes, Socks or Hair!

**Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**

“Dreaming of Kindness” Wear your pajamas or comfy clothes!

**Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

“P.S. I Love You Day” **Wear Purple**



## Nurse's Note . .

Did you know that February is National Children's Dental Health Month? It is observed to raise awareness of the importance of dental hygiene and good oral health. We can promote healthy habits at home by teaching our children how to properly brush, floss along with other routines to help keep our teeth clean.

### Tips from the Tooth Fairy

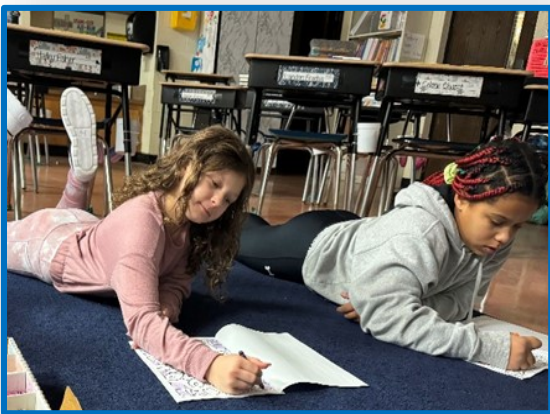
- Brush 2 times every day (and after eating candy) and floss once a day
- Get a new toothbrush every 3 months and after you are sick to avoid bacteria and germs
- Visit your dentist every 6 months!
- Eat plenty of tooth-friendly snacks such as fruit, vegetables, cheese and yogurt. Avoid starchy and stick snacks that can cling to teeth and cause decay



Most importantly ... **don't forget to Smile!**

## Club Corner . . .

Our morning clubs are well underway! We have so many exciting club offerings this year, and students are having a wonderful time discovering new interests and hobbies. Check out some of the fun morning activities taking place here at LADSBS!



Our LADSBS Service and Kindness Clubs will be collecting personal care items to be distributed to the homeless. If you would like to participate, please send in **travel sized** personal care items such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. The collection will take place from **February 1<sup>st</sup> - February 13<sup>th</sup>**. Students can bring the items to school to be put in a box by the main office. Items will be packaged and distributed by outreach with the local police department.

## **Give Back Day!**

The LADSBS Service and Kindness Clubs are hosting our annual Give Back Day on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m.— 12:00 p.m. We would like to honor all community and family members of our students that have served our country and community in the following areas: Current Military Service and Veterans, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters and EMT's. It is our privilege to be able to honor and thank our families and community members who have sacrificed their time to serve our community. We invite you to come and be honored and also get to meet with our students and share your stories and experiences with them.

Please use the link provided to [sign up via Google Forms](#). We need all sign-ups completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>. You do not need to be able to attend the whole time, any time you can be here will be wonderful for our students. Don't be shy - Sign up and join us! We hope to see you on May 9<sup>th</sup>!



## STEAM Night...

Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School STEAM night was held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and saw over 200 students participate in the nighttime event. Students were invited to participate in STEAM-related classroom activities involving Zip Lines, Catapults, Roller Coasters, Race Cars, Ozobots, and many more. Each classroom activity was facilitated by the LADSBS faculty. The Expo Center saw a variety of organizations including One River Art School, Brookhaven National Lab, Miller Place Robotics, and our local public libraries facilitating activities. The evening fostered an inspiring environment for students to experience the exciting world of STEAM.



Also, special thanks to Mr. Evan Curran, K-12 Teacher Trainer, for organizing the event as well as all of the students and their families for joining us in sharing the magic and wonder of how Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics impact our everyday lives!

## School Spirit...

Students have been making *every word count* during our “Million Word Challenge”! Congratulations to Mr. Mas’ third grade students for being first in reaching the goal of reading 1 million words! For our next challenge, students will compete by class to see who can read *the most* words by March 1<sup>st</sup>.



Please feel free to participate in our **LADSBS SOUP-ER Bowl Fundraiser**! From Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, we are asking students to donate a canned item into the box labeled with the football team they think will win the Superbowl. We are always looking for ways to help our local community, and this fundraiser is going to SOUP-ER fun!

## Music Musings . . .

**Orchestra:** A month into the new year and the Fifth Grade Orchestra is refreshed, renewed and playing with a ridiculous level of confidence. How could you not after such an epic concert!? Rehearsals and lessons are full speed ahead. We are getting into the finer details about how to take our playing to the next level. We have some surprises for you planned for our Spring Concert. Orchestra rehearsals continue Monday and Wednesday before school, and we start promptly at 7:30 a.m.

The fourth graders are getting pumped for their first concert in April. It took some time to get them used to holding the instruments and getting their fingers moving. All good things come with patience. They were a little nervous at first to hear about the concert but we quickly shook those jitters. We are laser-focused on getting our music learned and ready for our first performance.



**Chorus:** The group keeps growing. More kids keep signing up day by day. Mr. Matura wants as many fifth graders as he can get in the group. This is a special group of kids...an energetic group of kids. This final concert is going to be something special. We have a unique program planned for you for our Spring Concert as we push towards those warm, summer days. Rehearsals continue every Friday beginning promptly at 7:30 a.m.

**General Music:** Aloha! The kids in General Music have started playing Ukulele. The sound of the instrument reminds us of nice, warm beaches on the Hawaiian shore. We are learning how the instrument works, how to finger roll and how to play chords. There is a steep learning curve to get those fingers moving and squeezing. Once we get through it together, it's all smooth sailing from there! Can't forget about the glockenspiel, not to be confused with the xylophone. Glockenspiels have bars that are made out of metal, which gives it the bell-like quality of sound. We use glockenspiels almost every day to learn about music theory, steady beat, and play pretty cool songs.



**Band:** The Fourth Grade Band is so excited for their recital in April! All of the lesson groups have chose their songs and have been working hard on getting them together. We have been having a blast working as a lesson. The Fifth Grade Band students are well on their way with their new songs. We have a great mix of patriotic tunes, beautiful melodies, and fast paced adventures. We are also so proud to have so many students signed up for our NYSSMA solo festival! Students are working so hard this year and filling the halls of LADSBS with beautiful music!

## Marvelous Math. . .

We had a fun and festive month in the math lab this January! Our third graders have been rocking out learning new songs to help them to memorize their multiplication facts. We have also been working on relating multiplication to division. As an extension, we have been using our multiplication facts to solve for Area.

In fourth grade, we continue to tackle multi-step word problems. We have started our unit on fractions and have been using models to make equivalent fractions and to compare fractions. Our fifth graders have become pros at renaming fractions and drawing models to represent fractions. We have practiced adding and subtracting fractions, and will be moving on to multiplying and dividing. All three grades continue to work on word problems and fluency.

We have hit the ground running in the new year to sharpen our math skills and the growth has been incredible! Our students should be very proud of their hard work, and we look forward to more success in 2024!



## Board of Education

## Don't Forget. . .

**Lisa Reitan, President**  
**Bryan Makarius, Vice President**  
**John Galligan, Trustee**  
**Andrea Spaniolas, Trustee**  
**Johanna Testa, Trustee**

School will be closed :  
February 19<sup>th</sup>—23<sup>rd</sup> Mid-Winter Recess

Citizenship...We help others!

## Central Office Administration

**Seth A. Lipshie, *Superintendent of Schools***  
**Susan G. Craddock, *Assistant Superintendent***  
**Sandra A. Wojnowski, *Executive Director for Educational Services***  
**Colleen V. Card, *School Business Official***  
**Christopher J. Herrschaft, *Director of Human Resources***  
**Ron Petrie, *Administrator for Physical Education, Health, Athletics and Intramurals***  
**Kurt Roth, *Administrator for Instruction and Data Reporting***  
**Barbara A. Weir, *Director of Technology***  
**Dennis Warsaw, *Director of Facilities***  
**Jeremy Koch, *Administrator for Pupil Personnel Services***  
**Donald Pearce, *District Treasurer***  
**Patricia Morbillo, *District Clerk***

## Helpful Hints . . .

### Kindergarten Registration:

Children who will be five years old on or before December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 are eligible to enter Kindergarten in September 2024. Registration will be held at **Central Office** from March 4<sup>th</sup> through March 22<sup>nd</sup> **by appointment only!** To schedule an appointment, please visit the District Information—Registration section of the district website to register through the [appointment link](#). Please be sure to bring all the requested documentation and completed forms to your appointment. If you know of a neighbor or friend residing in the Miller Place School District who has a child who is eligible for kindergarten in the fall, please share this information and feel free to contact either Central Office or AMPS with any questions.

**Before & After Care Program:** Did you know that SCOPE Educational Services offers before and after school programs at both AMPS and LADSBS? For more information, you can visit their website at [www.scopeonline.com](http://www.scopeonline.com).



“The sum of us is greater  
than all our parts.”  
Maya Angelou

