



# LADSBS News...



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

### Important March Dates:

- 4 March Madness Begins
- 5 Grade 4 Vanderbilt Museum Field Trip
- 10 Daylight Savings
- 11-15 March Book Madness Spirit Week
- 13 Board of Education Budget Workshop #2
- 14 **Spring Into Reading**  
Grade 3, 5:30 pm  
LADSBS
- 14 Grade 3 Port Jeff Bowl Field Trip
- 15 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Ends  
AMPS, LADSBS
- 19 NCR Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation  
NCR Café, 7:00 p.m.
- 19, 20  
LADSBS Clubs End
- 21, 22 Grade 5 Field Trip,  
Brookhaven  
National Lab
- 22 Report Cards Posted  
AMPS, LADSBS
- 27 Board of Ed Meeting  
Budget Workshop #3  
8:00 p.m., MPHS
- 28 Grade 4 Journey into  
Native American  
Territory Workshop
- 29 Schools Closed

Happy March! We hope you had a wonderful February break!

March is filled with exciting activities and events to look forward to as we start to knock on Spring's door. Our "March Book Madness Tournament" has begun. Sixteen books were selected, only one book will come out with the title of "LADSBS Book of the Year!" This year each reader will be masked! As a book gets voted out, the masked reader will be revealed. A Google Tournament Page has been created containing the bracket of books, which students will have access to. Click the following link to view: [March Book Madness 2024.png](#). By the end of March, we will crown our winning book.

With the Million Word Challenge coming to an end, we would like to congratulate everyone for their participation. Mr. Mas's class successfully reached their goal of one million words read first! We would also like to recognize Mrs. Palmaccio's class for reading the most words during the challenge - reaching **6,972,979** words!!



Our clubs will be coming to an end on March 19<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope your children enjoyed their experience and we would like your input. Club advisors will be sending out a short Google Survey for you to fill out after the final session. Please take a few moments to provide us with any feedback.

Lastly, the second trimester is coming to an end. Your child's teacher will be reaching out regarding their progress. If you have any questions or concerns, be sure to communicate them to the teacher.

As we embark on this exciting journey through the month of March, let us come together to celebrate the arrival of spring and the spirit of community. Please enjoy reading the March Newsletter and all of the past and upcoming events taking place.

*"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." - Walt Disney*



## Fourth Grade Focus...



Happy March fourth grade families! With spring just around the corner, the fourth grade classes are buzzing with excitement for all of the marvelous adventures March has in store. To kick off this month's festivities, all of the fourth grade classes are looking forward to their first field trip to the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Students will participate in a one hour "The World of Mr. Vanderbilt" presentation and a one hour "We Are Guardians" Planetarium program.

For this month's learning, all of the fourth grade classes are reading *Because of Winn-Dixie*, by Kate DiCamillo, in ELA. This heartwarming tale follows a young girl named Opal who forms unlikely friendships in a small town with the help of a lovable stray dog named Winn-Dixie. Throughout their adventures together, Opal learns about love, forgiveness, and the power of belonging. In math, we are continuing to work with fractions in Module 5 as everyone begins to add and subtract mixed numbers. Up next, Module 4! All of the classes are also wrapping up their learning on Native Americans in social studies, and transitioning back to science for "A Walk In the Park." In this unit, students will learn about the internal and external structures of plants. They will also learn how animals use their senses to take information from their surroundings and process this information.

Thank you to the LADSBS School Improvement Team for always working hard to create new and exciting events for our students and families. Last month, we hosted a "Math Escape Room" for our fourth graders. Students had a wonderful evening exploring the building at night during a scavenger hunt and trying to "escape" their classrooms.



We want to send a huge thank you to our incredible families for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we will make March filled with learning, laughter, and lots of love!



## Third Grade Thoughts . . .

It is hard to believe that March is already here! March is a busy and exciting month for third grade. We have begun to work on Fractions in Math and will be spending the month exploring the ins and outs of fractions and comparing them. In Science, we are learning all about Forces and how they affect our world.



We are doing a lot of exciting experiments exploring Forces. We are deep into our HMH reading program and have just finished up a non-fiction unit on historic places, documents and symbols of our nation, which goes well with our Social Studies unit we just finished up on our Government. Next, we will be exploring Stories and Plays, which should be very interactive and exciting for our students. We are also continuing to produce various writing pieces to add to our end of the year writing portfolio.

This year we will be participating in our School Wide March Madness Reading Contest and are very excited to see which books make the final cut! On March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our evening family event, Spring Into Reading, and our third graders, along with a parent, will get a chance to read Fairy Tales from around the globe and “visit” a variety of countries through literature. We will be doing some St. Patrick’s Day activities to welcome spring! Happy Spring!

## Fifth Grade Flash . . .

With the start of a new year, our fifth grade students are off and running in their last year of elementary school. They are learning and growing everyday and we are so proud of how much progress our students have made thus far. It is exciting to think that our fifth grade students will continue to grow until the end of the school year.

February brought a lot of fun at LADSBS. The students celebrated P.S. I Love You Day and decorated classroom doors with their classmates to continue to promote kindness and anti-bullying. A novel study that some fifth grade classes have started in February is *Hatchet*, by Gary Paulsen. This novel study is important because students will be learning about literary devices, high level vocabulary and inferencing, and how to use your resources around you if you need to.

In Math, the fifth grade students are working on Module 4: Multiplication and Division of Fractions and Decimal Fractions. In Social Studies, students have been learning about the Age of Exploration, Early Explorers, and the Columbian Exchange, as well as Geography and Government. In Science, students have worked in the unit Properties of Matter. We will be beginning a new Science unit entitled “Got Water?” where students will explore interactions between Earth’s systems.



Our fifth graders have had the opportunity to interact with exceptional student-athletes, who champion good sportsmanship, decision-making, and authentic conversations as a part of MPHS “Athletes Helping Athletes” Program. Last month was their second visit to our fifth grade classrooms, and they were awesome! They know how to connect with our fifth graders through the use of games and role-playing. We are looking forward to one more visit from them in April!

There is a lot to be excited for in the months to come, especially with March Book Madness approaching! We are looking forward to an awesome second half of the school year of continued learning and growth.





## Community Corner . . .



Our SOUP-er-Bowl Fundraiser was a huge success! Our school brought it to a new level, resulting in almost 400 cans of food being collected and later shared with our local food pantries. With the generosity and support of so many of our students and community members, it makes all of us feel like champions!



Congratulations to our February Kindness Coupon Raffle winners:

*Jasper Huang, Ainsley Vigliotta, Kaylee Williams, Giavanna D'Angelo, Piper Waltz, Max Spallina*

Thank you all for keeping up the kindness!



Last month, we celebrated the spirit of Kindness, supporting our district-wide participation in P.S. I Love You Day. All of our students and staff showed their unity in spreading love, kindness and support to one another during our themed spirit week and wearing the color purple.





## Music Musings . . .

**Band:** We are very excited to say that this year at LADSBS, we have 11 students attending the NYSSMA festival on the piano! These students have taken the time to learn a solo, scales, and practiced sight reading in order to play for a judge and a medal. We are so proud of them and wish them the best of luck! Next month the Fourth Grade Band recital will be taking place on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Miller Place High School. We are so excited to share a night of music with you all!

**Orchestra:** The students ensemble and team-working skills are getting better by the day. The level of focus: extraordinary. Their abilities in music reading: strong and confident. Orchestra rehearsals continue Monday and Wednesday before school starting promptly at 7:30 a.m. Consistency and focus are the two most important factors in developing a child's music ability.

In less than two months, the Fourth Grade Orchestra students will perform at their first concert. Each lesson group has their own individual song to show off their skills. A routine of twenty minutes of daily practice is the number-one factor in ensuring success both at the concert and their growth as musicians. Our note-reading skills are improving quickly. Currently, we are working on playing with a long, smooth bow to achieve a beautiful sound.



**Chorus:** Starting off Friday mornings with our chorus rehearsal is a special thing. The energy is high and memories are made every class. Over one hundred students all experience music and Mr. Matura together. These are the times these students will remember and talk about for years. We are currently working on strengthening our ensemble skills as well as our professionalism for our next concert. Our Spring Concert songs feature rapid-fire tongue-twisters, powerful song messages and even a different language. Can you guess what language the fifth graders have been learning in chorus on Friday mornings? You'll have to wait and find out.

**General Music:** The students drumming, ukulele and music theory chops are getting better by the day. In addition to music vocabulary and performance skills, the students will also be exploring the music of Jacob Collier. The multi-instrumentalist, six-time grammy award winner is taking the music world by storm with his high-energy concerts, his collaborations with music legends and his genre-crossing genius. We will use his story and music to help us answer the March essential question: "*How do you write music?*"



## Nurse's Note . . .

Before we know it, the warm spring air will return along with many of the outdoor activities that we all enjoy to help keep us healthy. The LADSBS Health Office would like to share some important tips on bicycle safety this month to make sure you and your family are ready to ride!

- *Wear a Bicycle Helmet.* Everyone at every age, should wear bicycle helmets while riding.
- *Adjust your Bicycle to Fit.* Be sure that your seat and handlebar are adjusted to the proper height and fit before riding.
- *Follow the Rules of the Road.* Remember that bicycles are considered vehicles, so it's important to follow all the same traffic laws and responsibilities as motorists.
- *Ride Safely.* Use bike lanes or paths where available.
- *See and Be Seen.* Whether it's daytime, dusk or bad weather, be sure to make yourself visible by wearing bright, fluorescent colors or something that helps reflect light so drivers can see you.



Bicycling is a fun, healthy and great way to spend time together as a family and we encourage everyone to get outside as much as possible to safely enjoy the ride!

## Marvelous Math . . .

### Fraction Fun!

Did you know that fractions are part of our every day life? Everyone uses fractions at some point during their day from pouring milk into your cereal in the morning to paying for something at the store, fractions are all around us! Here are some fun ways to use fractions at home:

### Supermarket Fraction Hunt:

When walking around the grocery store look around and see how many different fractions you can make. For example, two-fifths of the apple bins are red, two-fifths are green, and one-fifth is yellow.

### Get Cooking:

Fractions are a huge part of cooking. Take out those measuring cups and spoons and follow a recipe. Want even more of a challenge? Double or triple the recipe and share what you make with your family and friends.

### Fraction Hopscotch:

Draw a hopscotch board and label the squares with fractions. Throw a rock to a spot and name an equivalent fraction before jumping..

*Keep making Math count each day!*

## School Spirit . . .

Our “Million Word Challenge” has come to a close and the results are in! Congratulations to Mr. Mas’ third grade class for reading **One Million** words first! In our second challenge, classes competed to read the **most** amount of words by March 1<sup>st</sup>. In first place, Mrs. Palmaccio’s fourth graders read **6,972,979** words! In second place, Mrs. O’Connor’s fourth graders reached 6,778,033 and in third place, Mrs. Casazza’s fifth graders read 6,741,302 words. We have been extremely excited to celebrate all of our students’ reading accomplishments, and thank you for your continued support of reading in both the classroom and at home. Great job making **every word count!**



In honor of LADSBS “**March Book Madness**” competition, we will be having a spirit week to celebrate reading. Please join us in dressing up for each theme!



### Monday, 3/11: Read a T-Shirt Day

Wear a fun shirt with words on it!

### Tuesday, 3/12: Book Character Day

Dress up as your favorite book character!

### Wednesday, 3/13: Reading JOGS the Mind

Wear exercise clothes!

### Thursday, 3/14 Pajama Day—Cozy up to a Great Book

Wear your pajamas to school!

### Friday, 3/15: Lucky to Love Reading

Celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day & wear the color green!





## Club Corner . . .

We will be wrapping up the final few weeks of morning clubs during the month of March, with our last meetings taking place on March 19<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup>. This year, our clubs have focused on a wide variety of interests such as sports, arts, digital and academic subjects, community service and much more. Thank you to all of our parents for providing morning transportation and for all of your support!



Our LADSBS Kindness and Service Clubs would like to thank everyone for participating in our collection of personal care items. Students sorted and packaged shampoos, deodorant, toothpaste and much more for an outreach program. Keep up the kindness!

## Art-I-Facts . .

Maybe we jumped the gun a little on the spring themed art, but these floral paintings were just too gorgeous to wait to create! Fourth grade reviewed color families and painting techniques, which resulted in these beauties! Fifth graders and third graders started to experiment with 3D art making techniques. Third graders used paper mâché to build their choice of a crayon or a tube of paint. We're currently painting them using a custom color that each student designed themselves.



Is it Clay? Piggybacking off of the themes of Cleas Oldenburg, fifth grade used clay to sculpt hyper-realistic slices of pizza. Once displayed on the tray, it was hard to tell it was a work of art!

**EVERY STUDENT MATTERS ... EVERY MOMENT COUNTS!**

## **Board of Education**

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



## **Don't Forget . . .**

Sign-up for our upcoming LADSBS events:

- [Give Back Day](#), May 9<sup>th</sup>
- [Spring Into Reading Event](#), Grade 3  
March 14<sup>th</sup>

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***

## **Reminders . . .**

- Please be certain that any person picking your child up from school has consent from you in the form of a written note and brings their driver's license for identification purposes.
- As a reminder, please refrain from parking in designated handicapped spots without the proper parking tag during drop off and pick up in both the front and rear of the building.



*"The sum of us is greater  
than all our parts."  
Maya Angelou*