

Long Beach Island Consolidated School District

“Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report, March 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our garden programs have continued throughout the school year. The gardens at both EJ and LBI have provided outdoor instructional areas for students to harvest vegetables in the fall and plant in the spring. Many of the spring plantings were started in our indoor gardens. Students were able to plant lettuce and other vegetables inside and will soon begin to transplant them to the outside gardens. At the LBI Grade School, students were able to use lettuce and other vegetables inside to make delicious smoothies! There will be a special presentation to all grades (individually) on Nutrition from LBI Health Department to recognize National Nutrition Month.

I can't believe we are halfway through the third marking period. A special thanks to all of our staff members for a job well done! We know how much time and planning goes into the school year as staff members worked to put forth a very successful daily and evening conference schedule while hosting a Wellness Committee Meeting, STEAM Nights, Family Sports Night, and a Technology TECHSPO event for students. As Mr. Birney and I mentioned to staff, it was a busy month with Parent Luncheon Visitations during Conferences, a PTA Book Fair, and PTA Marine Science Camp, PTA Dance, and after-school activities.

Special thanks to our EJ and LBI staff members and parents as Read Across America Week began on Saturday, March 2, 2024 nationwide. This reading initiative is an annual reading motivation and awareness program for every child in every community to celebrate reading. The PTA Book Fair was a huge success at both schools. Special thanks to our PTA for organizing and to parents and teachers in helping out. From what I could see, there was a great turnout. The communications sent and scheduled times for parents, staff and students to follow were extremely helpful.

It has been a busy year so far in 2024. Staff members also took part in workshops geared towards the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching and learning on January 18th, a Co-Teaching workshop on February 16th, and Implementing Centers on March 14th. We are looking forward to working with Stockton, ETTC on May 16th for Science of Reading.

As STEAM Night was such a success, the LBI Grade School will be adding an Astronomy Program in late Spring. Additionally, special thanks to the PTA as the SkyDome assembly was so amazing and such an interactive event.

Special thanks to Mr. Colino for planning and working with 3rd and 4th grade students and parents during Family Sports Night. It was great to see so many families come to play in the topple tube tournament. It was a very competitive event. The students were able to take on the parents at the end, and you can guess who won. Mr. Colino and Mr. LaMarco are working with the PTA on Field Day (May 31st). This year's theme is.....Summer Olympics. There will be a meeting soon to discuss events, shirts, and times.

Our sixth grade students will travel with nearby schools to the STAC on March 21st at 9:30 a.m. for an assembly presentation called Sportsmanship Day. Sixth grade students will wear gold and black. The Intermediate Principal shared what the students will accomplish. It should be a great time!

As we near Spring Recess, April 1st-5th, make sure to take some time to recharge for the final stretch of an amazing school year! The success of this school year has been due to the cooperation of all those in our school community. With this, enjoy the upcoming warmer weather days outside with family and friends.

Please make sure to check the district website or Google calendar for upcoming events. Again, many thanks for all you do!

Warmest regards,

Dr. Peter Kopack



Parent Teacher Association



Again, great news from the PTA, as the Long Beach Island Grade School will be the recipient of one of the Ocean County Grants for \$1,000 for Lead U. The PTA will secure the date of September 17, 2024 on the Lead U calendar for 1 assembly with the students of grades 3 & 4 and 1 workshop with the students in grades 5 & 6. Definitely looking forward to having Lead U back and then Challenge Island will take place on October 17th .

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! We are looking forward to the many learning activities planned. Please make sure to sign up to become a member of the PTA. Special thanks to our PTA for all of their hard work, especially at the PTA meetings...many thanks to all for a job well done!



Movin' and groovin' at the Disco Dance Party!



SkyDome (Mobile Planetarium) Assembly



Marine Science Camp



Our 6th grade scientists have been exploring plate tectonics and how Earth's surface changes over time. Using maps and computer simulations, students have been asking questions and figuring out patterns of seismic activity around the world based on motions of tectonic plates. Further investigations centered on the impacts of volcanic eruptions using computer simulations. With an application called GeoCode, students created their own computer programs using block-based coding to run simulations showing the effects of volcanic eruptions. Through these simulations, students were able to manipulate and test variables to generate outputs on computer models for explaining and describing factors affecting impacts of volcanic eruptions. In addition, students used informational text to research human environmental impacts of eruptions, and used this information to create safety messages related to the effects of volcanoes. As part of an engineering design project, students designed, tested, and reiterated earthquake

proof structures. They built and tested original designs on a shake table in the classroom and collaboratively discussed how well the structures met the criteria and constraints. The final component of this unit involved investigating hydrothermal vents and the unique ecosystems created by mid-ocean ridges and other geologic processes on the seafloor. Through cutting edge underwater survey technology, video, and recordings of scientific expeditions, students explored these environments and began creating 3D models of these environments.

As part of a culmination of a unit on Energy and Human Impact, our fifth grade scientists researched impacts on Earth's systems and figured out solutions to energy usage and consumption through conservation of resources. Students used digital graphing tools to explore and explain energy consumption and created conservation messages for hallway displays. These fifth grade students then began investigating Space Systems. Students focused on patterns in space by conducting gravity experiments and exploring effects of movements of Earth and other space objects. Through computer simulations, collecting and analyzing data, and conducting kinesthetic activities, students have been figuring out how and why shadows change, what causes day and night, and why seasonal changes in stars occur throughout the year.

Our fourth grade students recently began investigating waves and their properties, and our third grade students finished their climate structures by testing and analyzing their models.

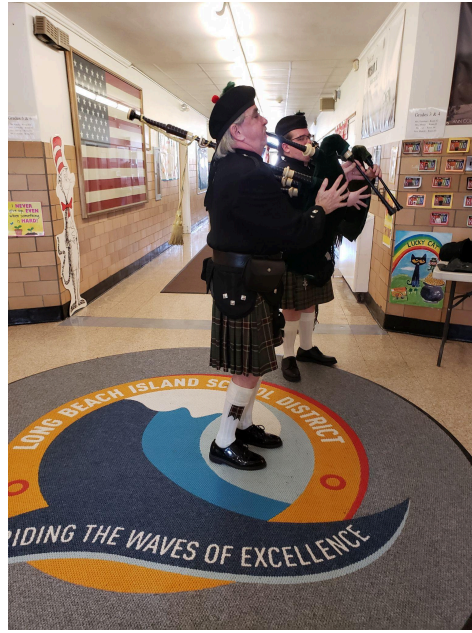


STEAM Night at the Long Beach Island Grade School

Music with Mr. Cotov

Spring has nearly sprung in the music room! At EJ, students are preparing for a Spring Play entitled "How Does Your Garden Grow." Mr. Cotov is accompanying his students on such songs as "Magic Garden" and "Garlic."

At LBI, we are just as busy. Strings are preparing for a Spring Concert which will include all original songs by their teacher. Fourth Grade Band is well underway. We have many new clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and percussion players. Our older students are taking on the role of "teacher" as they assist the beginners weekly.



Thanks to the Connolly's, a local family, who came out and entertained us with the bagpipes!

HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

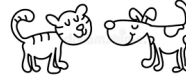
EJ School: In class, students will begin to write fitness journals. Students will choose an exercise or skill to practice. They will come up with a training plan towards their goal. Over the course of 4 weeks, students will practice and fine tune their skills for a final assessment on Game Day. The Game Day Challenge will allow students to show off their newly-learned or highly-tuned skills. Students will get a chance to practice during games like Fitness 4 Corners or at the end of class time. I'm very excited to watch the students work towards their individual goals.

LBI School: As we finish up our unit on tennis, all students grades 3-6 will then take on the highly engaging sport of pickleball. LBI Grade School students will have special presentations to all grades (individually) on Nutrition from the LBI Health department to recognize National Nutrition Month.



Long Beach Island Grade School Family Sports Night - Topple Tube Tournament!

PREK MARCH 2024



This month, we are learning all about Pets. We will be discovering all different types of pets and how we can care for them. Pets can be really small and really big! We talked about what pets we have at home and what pets we would like to have. In our dramatic play, it will be a PetSmart. The students will be able to adopt an animal of their choice. The students will also learn how to be a veterinarian and groomer. In the veterinarian section, they will have a doctor kit to take care of all of the animals. In the grooming section, there will be shampoo, blow dryer, and combs to make the animals look nice.

For our literacy lessons, we are learning different word families with words that are 3 letters. We will learn about the -at, -ap, -an, -op, -ot, and -og families this month. We celebrated Dr. Seuss and Read Across America by checking out these word families in his books! In math, we are learning how to count by 10's all the way to 100!



Kindergarten Crew March Happenings

March is blowing in like a lion in Kindergarten! We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America by reading a variety of Dr. Seuss books and participating in a school-wide Seussical program! What a wacky week! We are becoming expert mathematicians counting and comparing double digit numbers and adding numbers using two ten frames. We have been practicing letter skills, word building, sight word recognition and sentence writing. We are becoming awesome Kindergarten readers and writers! Kindergarten Morning Bins are one of our favorite times of the day to practice our skills, work collaboratively and use our creativity! As the month heads out like a lamb, we will welcome Spring by creating beautiful crafts and heading back out to our EJ garden for Farming Fridays. What an exciting month of learning in Kindergarten!

First Grade

As we continue through March, 1st Grade is chugging along! The students have been working extremely hard on expanding their skills in Phonics. So far, we have begun to cover our different types of vowel teams. The rule is when 2 vowels go walking, the first one does the talking! We've learned all about ea, oa, ai, and ee (ex. team, boat, nail, keep). In Science, we are working on our unit on all things weather. We've been learning about all types of weather and the different types of clouds! We even got to our very own class experiment where we simulated how a cloud forms using a mason jar, an ice cube, hot water, and hairspray!

In Social Studies, we have wrapped up our unit on Symbols and Tradition in the US, and are beginning to explore life today and long ago. We will begin to look at the ways that life has changed throughout history, and investigate how times have changed for schools, communities, daily life, technology, and transportation.

This month in Writing, we are crafting our opinion writing papers. We will decide whether we would want to be a wizard or a superhero. After this week, we will be taking a deep dive into poetry, first focusing specifically on Cinquain Poems. The students have continued to be engaged in our daily lessons and are looking forward to the remainder of the school year!

SECOND GRADE

The students in second grade kicked off the month of March in a fun way! To celebrate Read Across America, second graders took part in a school-wide Dr. Seuss Celebration. They enjoyed Seuss-themed learning centers practicing reading and math skills, along with cooperative games and art activities. Second graders continue to work diligently throughout each subject area too. In Math, they have been learning how to solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers. Next, students will begin a unit on time and money, where they will solve real-life problems involving money, as well as learn how to tell time to the nearest five minutes. In ELA, students have been reading and analyzing poetry and informational texts. They have learned about an author's purpose for writing. In addition, students just completed their own "How To" writing piece, where they explained a step-by-step process on how to make or do something. Check out their published directions on display outside the second grade classrooms. You might learn a thing or two! In Social Studies, second graders are learning about how our country's government is organized. Through reading informational texts and other activities, students have been introduced to the three branches of government. Lastly, in Science, second graders have been learning about the fast and slow changes to our Earth. They really enjoyed doing a hands-on activity to model the process of erosion. As Spring approaches, second grade students look forward to learning opportunities in the EJ Garden.

THIRD GRADE

Third Grade is having a great time in the Science Lab with Ms. McBride! The students love planning and carrying out investigations! Most recently, they designed, built, and tested structures to withstand various weather and climates. They are also continuing to sharpen their essay-writing skills. With this, they are researching, practicing note taking from several sources, and composing their opinions in a 5 paragraph essay. In math, they are continuing to work with and analyze fractions. They all have grown so much since September!

Fourth Grade

Our lucky 4th grade is experiencing so much fun and excitement during the month of March! In Social Studies, we are continuing to learn and practice our States and Capitals, discussing what makes our country great, and working on our State Projects during Technology classes. We are integrating writing and technology to create Diamante poems, which we are honored to soon have published in an upcoming issue of the *Echoes of LBI* magazine. We are also entering the Ocean County Government Poster Contest - and hoping to add good news to our Happenings next month! Math class is quite busy right now, as we are learning how to add, subtract, and work with fractions. Science topics are focusing on types of waves - vocabulary and some fun experiments are in our future. Right now, we are enjoying the warmer weather and looking forward to a fantastic spring!

Fifth Grade

The fifth graders are ready for spring! In Social Studies students are marching their way towards the American Revolution. Additionally, students have been working on Geography lessons within the Technology Lab. They are wrapping up their novel study, *Number the Stars*, and are writing an informational essay on the riveting rescue in Denmark. On March 14th they learned all about Pi Day in Math.

Sixth Grade

In Math, the 6th graders just finished their unit on ratios and rates by completing a culminating bakery project. They used ratios, rates, and unit prices to create their own bakery and products that they sell. Currently, students have been learning all about percentages! They are beginning to calculate finding tips and discounts, while also realizing how relevant the math they are learning is to their everyday lives.

In ELA, 6th grade students finished a nonfiction unit and started the novel *A Long Walk to Water* this month. They will also be preparing for their transition to Southern with a field trip to meet up with the other sending districts and have a presentation from Southern's student athletes.

GARDEN NEWS

