

Long Beach Island Consolidated School District

“Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report, April 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We were thrilled to welcome the Berkeley Township School District and staff members to LBI. Berkeley recently sent five staff members from kindergarten through second grade and a data coach to observe our classroom teachers and staff. Berkeley is modifying their ELA curriculum materials, and we provided observations and an articulation meeting for their staff. Berkeley was very appreciative of the LBI Schools.

Third and fourth grade teachers traveled to the Stafford Township Schools to articulate with similar grades levels on ELA and math strategies, and how staff members are integrating online curricular materials. Staff members had an opportunity to meet, share, and observe lessons as well. The feedback was outstanding, and it was great to take part.

Additionally, this year, our fifth and sixth grade staff members collaborated with the Southern Regional School District. We are setting up additional dates for staff members to visit nearby school districts to articulate and share in learning.

Special thanks to Lisa Benjamin as students are participating in the contest for a new Long Beach Township logo. Students from both schools created logo designs focusing on a beach/bay/ocean theme. Additionally, Long Beach Township held their 1st Annual Cardboard Boat Race last year, the Saturday after Labor Day. We have been invited to participate in this year’s race. This would be a great family activity/experience to attend. Right now, they have the date of September 7th but the date may change to September 21st or 28th.

Sixth grade graduation pictures took place last week with Ann Coen...special thanks to Ann for her time and support. Sixth grade students are really looking forward to end of year events and activities, and we have invited Beach Haven to the sixth grade Bay Day and Fantasy Island. Additionally, Beach Haven students attended our Winter Dance and the STAC center presentation this past year.

Third marking period report cards were sent home on April 19th. Many thanks to Shelley Smith, and to all of you who have entered and checked all grading and comments. We are now in the fourth and final marking period. All summer events, camps and activity schedules are out or being finalized.

The PTA met last week, and they were able to review the end of the school year fundraising and upcoming events and programs for next year. Additionally, the PTA discussed a parent social for the fall. Staff appreciation will be the week of May 13th. The restaurant fundraisers: Maristella’s Luncheonette, Burger 25, Wally’s, Chick-fil-A, Panzones and LBI Table (soon) have been a success, and the PTA will discuss more about a possible raffle as a fundraiser for 2024-2025. We were able to find more information about holding a fun run/walk for next year. Mr. Birney and I will put this together and share more information soon.

Yearbook sales are underway. A special thank you to Lisa Benjamin and students for the cover art. Also, the LBI Spring Concert was held last week—Bravo to all of our talented students and Mr. Cotov for a wonderful performance! The EJ Spring Concert will be May 7th at 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Both schools are looking forward to challenging officers from our local police departments in a kickball game (Books vs. Badges) on Tuesday, May 21st from 4-6 p.m. at the EJ School. Parents/children attending the event will be asked to bring a donation for the St. Francis Food Bank.

Reclam the Bay presentations were incredible. The staff and students really enjoyed meeting with them and learning more about our bays and oceans.

Ocean County Library, LBI Branch has been invited to the LBI School and will visit EJ students this week. We are looking forward to working with the OC Library for summer readings and visitations.

The Long Beach Island School District takes pride in our commitment to excellence in educating and empowering students through innovative educational learning experiences. We are extremely grateful to have creative teachers and families working together to support the needs of our students.

Beginning April 30th, 3rd through 6th grade students will take the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments. Below is the assessment schedule:

April 30 & May 1: 5th Grade Science
May 6-10: 5th & 6th Grade ELA & Math
May 13-17: 3rd Grade ELA & Math

Here are a few suggestions to assist on testing dates:

- Good sleep and a healthy and balanced breakfast are always the best supports for students during a school day.
- During tech classes, students have been getting familiar with the NJSLA testing and sample questions in ELA, Math & Science.
- Remind students to be positive and relax while taking the test. This helps reduce testing anxiety.

Kindergarten registration is under way. Registering your child during our spring registration helps create a smooth transition into kindergarten in the fall. Any child who is 5 years old on or before October 1 may register.

We are looking forward to 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.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Peter Kopack



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! 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!



Special thanks to our sixth grade parents and LBI teachers, and to Ann Coen for taking graduation photos on the beach. The students had a great time!



Our sixth grade students recently began figuring out forces and interactions through computer simulations, classroom investigations with measuring forces using spring scales, and exploration of Newton's Laws of Motion through everyday experiences such as sports. In addition, students have been modeling forces acting on objects and creating force diagrams, measuring and calculating their running speeds, and planning investigations based on Newton's Laws of Motion to provide evidence supporting explanations about the relationship between force and mass.

In early April, our students were provided with a presentation by ReClam the Bay volunteers and learned about the ecology of Barnegat Bay. As part of this wonderful presentation, the fifth and sixth grade students also learned how to care for oysters, and received shellfish which are currently being raised in the science classroom.

Our fifth grade students have been figuring out how matter and energy flow in ecosystems. Students have been creating models of food webs, food chains, and the carbon cycle. In addition, students collaboratively created classroom models of ecosystems using recycled soda bottles for bottle growing systems which contain soil and live plants to explore first-hand ecosystem dynamics and matter cycling concepts.

Our fourth grade students have been investigating the properties of waves and light through models and hands-on investigations. In addition, students recently began a unit on renewable energy and are using the engineering design process to design solutions to capture wind energy.

Our third grade students have been investigating life cycles and comparing and contrasting cycles for different animals. In addition, students have been figuring out animal adaptations through hands-on investigations and data analysis.

Our fifth and sixth grade students started building their ocean drifter which will be deployed in the ocean off the coast of New Jersey in mid-late May and tracked over time via satellite.

In Technology classes, third graders are having a great time using A.I. to create machine learning models. To do this each student brought in several different small objects. Then using an app called Teachable Machine, they recorded numerous photos of the different objects so that the machine could recognize & identify the objects correctly.

Music with Mr. Cotov

With our production of "How Does Your Garden Grow," our EJ students are riding high in music class. We have PreK-4 singing "Garlic & Kale," while Kindergarten sings "Colorful Flowers." Mr. Cotov has been leading song rehearsals with our second graders perfecting their speaking lines. The show will take place on Tuesday, May 7th @ 10:00 AM.

In the LBI Grade school, we performed our Spring Concert, "Reach Out." It was a huge success with Strings, Band, and Chorus under the direction of Mr. Cotov. Now, our 3rd graders have also moved on to band and string instrument demonstrations for next year.



HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

As we approach May, our students in grades 3-6 are now preparing for The President's Fitness Challenge, which includes 5 major parts of their fitness repertoire: flexibility, upper body strength, speed & agility, core strength and endurance. LBI Health Office: "Hands only" CPR Training for 5th/6th grade will be provided on May 2nd.

At EJ, the Kickball unit has ended and is leading us into our T-ball/baseball/softball unit this spring. We have all the bats and gloves ready for some home run derby action! In health class the students are working on creating a healthy daily diet. They will be deciding what to eat for breakfast, lunch, dinner, as well as snacks in between.

Preschool News

This month we welcomed spring with new songs and stories. We talked about how spring showers bring lots of pretty flowers. We talked about the change in weather and temperature as the seasons change. We talked about Easter and Passover. We learned about the eclipse, and Earth Day. We painted eggs, and bunnies with water colors and counted and subtracted from five to zero. We had a class trip to the library and we made a big nest with a mother hen and five baby chicks.

We are continuing a letter of the week with T, U, V and W this month. We have been busy making umbrellas and flowers! We made our own butter and tasted it on a giant matzoh cracker. Almost everyone thought it was so yummy! We made a pretend volcano in our classroom.

At the end of the month we will make whales and watermelon crafts, and we will even taste watermelon in class!



Songs and Fingerplays

Five Little Chicks tucked in their nest, Mother Hen said, It's time to rest.
One little chick said, Peep! Peep! Peep! Four little chicks stayed Fast
Asleep! 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

Four Little Chicks tucked in their nest, Mother Hen said, It's time to rest.
One little chick said, Peep! Peep! Peep! Three little chicks stayed Fast
Asleep! 1 - 2 - 3

Three Little Chicks tucked in their nest, Mother Hen said, It's time to
rest. One little chick said, Peep! Peep! Peep! Two little chicks stayed
Fast Asleep! 1 - 2

Two Little Chicks tucked in their nest, Mother Hen said, It's time to rest.
One little chick said, Peep! Peep! Peep! One little chick stayed Fast
Asleep! 1

One Little Chick tucked in their nest, Mother Hen said, It's time to rest.
That little chick said, Peep! Peep! Peep! And all of the little chicks came
to sleep.

Five Little Chicks tucked in their nest, Mother Hen said, It's time to rest.
None of the little chicks made a peep, And all of the little chicks stayed
fast asleep!

Kindergarten Crew April Happenings



Spring is finally here! Our kindergarten classes have been continuing to work on their sight words and are doing a fantastic job in their reading groups. We are becoming readers and writers! In math we worked on 2D & 3D shapes. In science we are having fun with experiments while learning about plants and animals. We are excited to announce that our Kindergarten Crew was able to celebrate Earth Day by participating in an event in our school garden that included four earth-based stations: Nature station (made bird feeders), upcycle station (painted used milk cartons to use as planters), gardening station (planted sunflowers), and recycling station (had a relay race while sorting recyclables). We also completed our annual school yard clean up! Spring is so much fun!



Kindergarten had a fun morning in the garden doing Earth Day activities. Thanks to our volunteer parents for coming out to participate

First Grade

With the arrival of spring, we have continued to blossom and grow into strong learners here in 1st grade! In phonics, we have shown tremendous growth in our comprehension of long and short vowels by learning about various vowel teams- such as “ai” and “ay” making the long a sound. Currently, we are exploring the soft sounds of “c” and “g”. In Science, we will be diving into force. We will have some upcoming experiments with magnets. We have recently planted sugar snap peas for a fun contest that is held between the two first grade classes. Each year we have a contest to see who can “get their peas to the table” first (based off of the book by Susan Grigsby) and study the growth of sugar snap peas throughout the process. For Social Studies, we are continuing to explore how life has changed over time by exploring how schools and communities have developed and evolved as time has progressed. We recently wrapped up our math unit on direct and indirect measurement and have moved onto reading analog and digital clocks. The students have really enjoyed learning how to tell time through the use of our class-set of Judy Clocks and various games! Spring has finally sprung and we are excited to see what the last marking period of school has in store for us.

SECOND GRADE

Second graders have been working very hard this year and are ready to hit the ground running into the fourth and final marking period. Before spring break in ELA, second graders finished a novel study of *Freckle Juice* by Judy Blume. This classic tale was an instant favorite amongst our students. In the coming days second grade will be creating an opinion writing piece sharing where they think second grade should go on their class trip. Our students will write to share and support their opinions.

In mathematics, second grade just completed a unit on Counting Money and Telling Time. We are beginning a unit on geometry where second graders will be learning about shapes and their attributes.

In social studies, our second graders are exploring Governments Around the World and People Who Supply Our Goods and Services. We will discuss the differences between needs, and wants as well the basic economic concepts of money and trade.

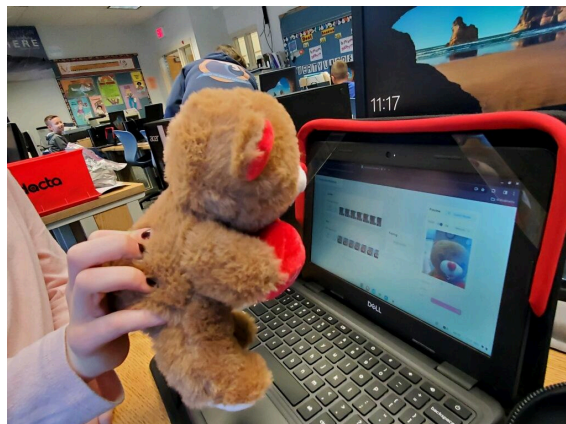
Finally, in science second graders are working on a unit all about the needs of plants and animals. Our second graders will be growing grass plants in their classrooms and monitoring growth over the next few weeks. We are looking forward to moving ahead in our science curriculum to our final topic, Animals and their Habitats. Speaking of animals and their habitats, second graders are looking forward to their class trip to The Cape May Zoo at the end of May. We are looking forward to a great rest of the school year in second grade.

THIRD GRADE

Hello! We are going to tell you about the important things in 3rd grade. In math, we have been learning about fractions, rounding, and adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers. In ELA, we have been learning about expository texts and poetry. In writing, we are writing an expository essay. In the Science Lab, we have been learning about adaptations and things that either harm or help animals. Adaptations help people and animals survive and get food. Finally, all of us are excited about our field trip coming up on May 9th. We are going to the N.J. State Museum.

In Technology classes, third graders are having a great time using A.I. to create machine learning models. To do this each student brought in several different small objects. Then using an app called Teachable Machine, they recorded numerous photos of the different objects so that the machine could recognize & identify the objects correctly.

Written by Erika, Zoiah, Charlie, Evan, Zach, and Dylan



Fourth Grade

The 4th grade is 'springing' into gear as we prepare for the NJSLA and the final marking period. In math, we are working with fractions, graphs, and measurement this month. In science, we are learning about renewable and nonrenewable resources. States and capitals continue to be mastered during our social studies lessons. Did you know that April is National County Government Month? The 4th graders have entered a poster contest representing all that Ocean County has to offer. One winner from each class has been chosen to move on to the County competition. Good luck, LBI! Our Diamante poems have been sent for publication in the Echoes of LBI magazine. We are so excited to be a part of this special project every year. Our students will all soon be published authors! HOFNOD entries continue to come in, so hopefully we'll have a 4th grade student representing this wonderful program, as well. Both classes were involved in creating the winners' certificates for the Ship Bottom Sprint For Life this year. They were thanked with their own certificates AND t-shirts from the generous event organizer. What a busy month we've had helping others and being a part of our community! We are extremely grateful for so many opportunities to show off our talents while learning about the people and places around us.

Fifth Grade

The 5th graders are ready for some warmer weather. In ELA the students completed a unit of study on the dangers of marine plastic pollution. Students researched the effects of plastic pollution on our oceans to write persuasive essays urging others to reduce their use of plastic. Casey Deacon, the president of ALO came in to talk to the kids about microplastic and an initiative to stop using balloons. Jetty donated misprinted T-shirts that couldn't be used, and students created no-sew tote bags to use instead of plastic ones. Once the bags were finished they were dropped off at Root: The Green Shoppe in Haven Beach. Customers will be able to offer a donation for the bags as they shop for sustainable items. The donations collected will be sent to ALO and The Jetty Rock Foundation. In social studies we are into the Revolutionary War. We are wrapping up LEAD. We can't believe how fast this school year has gone, but you know what they say- "time flies when you are having fun!!"

Sixth Grade

The 6th graders have been working hard on their statistics unit in math class. Students came up with their own statistical questions and surveyed their fellow classmates. Using the data they gathered, they analyzed and organized it by creating boxplots, histograms, and frequency tables. They were able to use different methods of variability, like Interquartile Range and Mean Absolute Deviation, to describe how spread apart or close together their data values were. Students are currently in the process of compiling all of this information onto a poster board in order to present it to their classmates.

GARDEN NEWS

"Spring is the time of plans and projects" with many Earth Day events from the EJ Garden! This spring we find PK-half day transplanting lettuce, PK-full day planting strawberries, Kindergarten sowing sunflowers, Grade 1 sowing snap peas, and Grade 2 transplanting kale. EJ students also started yellow squash, zucchini, acorn squash, butternut squash, cucumbers and watermelon. These warm weather varieties will be started inside to germinate and then transferred to the Light Garden. Smaller seeds have been started by staff that include: tomatoes, peppers, basil and parsley. The EJ Garden is dreaming big this year with hopes of having transplants available for parents to take home after the Spring Show ... if Mother Nature is willing.

