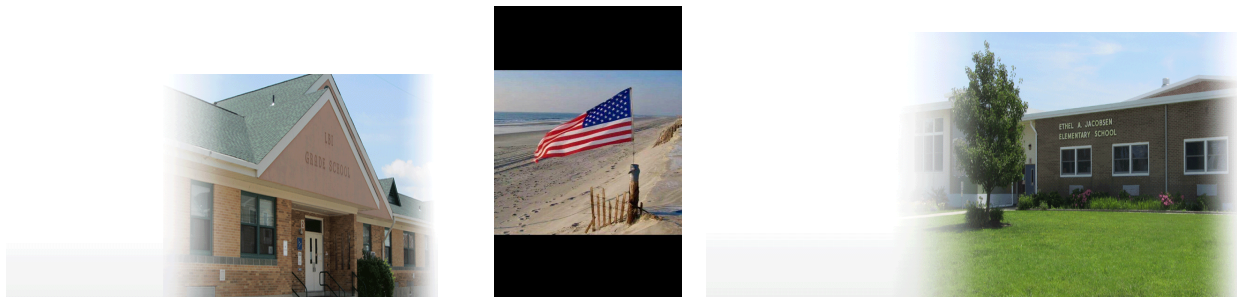


# *Long Beach Island Consolidated School District*

## “Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report, May 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those men and women who died in military service for our country. We express our gratitude, we remember, and honor all the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our incredible nation.

As we look to the end of May and beginning of June, it looks like the warmer temperatures are here to stay. With nearly 12 school days remaining in the 23-24 school year, we all have so much to be grateful for. We truly appreciate all of your support as we look to the summer of 2024.

The week of May 13th, we celebrated our LBI district staff during National Teacher Appreciation Week. The PTA worked to provide daily messages, snacks, and a luncheon to celebrate our teachers for promoting the very best in innovative instructional design and authentic learning for both our schools. With this, we say “Thank You” to our incredible team of teachers and staff members.

We received results from state rating scores and the LBI School District ranked 16th in the county overall, and the LBI Grade School ranked 9th for Elementary Schools. We truly appreciate your dedication and innovation at both schools. Everyone in our school community plays a large part in the achievement of our students. We value all of your time and efforts!

Congratulations to our upcoming sixth grade graduates and their parents/guardians! We have been working through the final preparations for our ceremony on June 10th. We look forward to seeing our students and families attend. A special “Thank You” to our parents and students for all the support you have shown throughout these many years. In addition, “Thank You” to our dedicated PTA for their time and efforts in providing so much.

The second grade students will be visiting the LBI School on June 3rd. This is a chance for the second graders to get a glimpse of third grade! There will be a summer orientation offered to the parents...more details to follow.

Special thanks to our local Police Departments and First Responders of Harvey Cedars, Long Beach Township, Ship Bottom and Surf City for participating in our first annual Kickball Game versus the Ethel A. Jacobsen and Long Beach Island Grade School staff. Books Versus Badges was a success, and we truly appreciate the time and efforts of so many. Special thanks to Mrs. Sarah Esarey and to Hand Line Architect for designing and supplying t-shirts. Again, many thanks to all involved in such a great evening!

Last month, the LBI School District was asked by Long Beach Township to design a new logo for the town. There were over 150 designs submitted by adults and students. Ms. Gina Lotito, Director of Parks and Recreation from Long Beach Township reached out to thank Mrs. Benjamin for her help with the student submissions for the new logo for Long Beach Township. The students ALL did an exceptional job! A graphic designer will be making a few changes and hopefully can present the final version at their June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Fantasy Island graciously donated prizes for our 4 winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jenna Connolly will receive 2 Day of Fun Passes which includes unlimited rides and \$10 bonus fun cards.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: McKenzie Zorda will receive an unlimited ride pass.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Summer Rickards will receive an unlimited ride pass.

4<sup>th</sup> Place: Vivienne Hoch will receive an unlimited ride pass.

On Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> Long Beach Township will be hosting their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The posters of the logos will be on display. Mayor Mancini will also speak at 6pm and will officially announce the winner. Ms. Lotito will drop the prizes off at the school on Tuesday.

Special thanks to our **STEAM** program as Ms. McBride and students planned, built and implemented an Ocean Drifter. Here is the link! [https://studentdrifters.org/tracks/drift\\_lbis\\_2024\\_1.html](https://studentdrifters.org/tracks/drift_lbis_2024_1.html)

We are looking forward to the final few days 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.

Again, many thanks for all you do!

Warmest regards,

Dr. Peter Kopack



Long Beach Township Logo Winners, L-R: Jenna Connolly, McKenzie Zorda, and Summer Rickards



## 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!



Students participate in raising and lowering the American Flag daily at the Long Beach Island Grade School



Our sixth grade students completed their roller coaster investigations and models and recently began investigating components of weather by collecting and analyzing real weather data outside and online. These students also have been busy creating a Legacy Garden by planting flowering plants for pollinators.

Our fifth grade students completed their investigations of ecosystems and recently began researching their final science projects for a mini science fair which will be held in the science room at the end of the school year.

The fourth grade students have been investigating natural resources and their effects on the environment. Students created models of wind turbines to explore renewable energy resources. Then they created models of oil spills to investigate effects on marine ecosystems, and tested tools and methods for cleaning the spills.

Our third grade students have been investigating animal life cycles and inherited and environmental traits with explorations of class traits as well as plant experiments. In addition, these students have been involved in the engineering design process to create models of wind-powered vehicles. Students collaborated to build and test the vehicles and improved their designs to create the fastest car.

## Ocean Drifter PEP

Our students finished building their drifter which will be deployed off the coast of NJ very soon. Our students are looking forward to tracking and monitoring their drifter over time. We also had a professor from Stockton University present a program on ocean drifters and marine technology to our PEP class.



5th & 6th Graders built a drifter during PEP classes this marking period.  
Here is the link for our drifter!

[https://studentdrifters.org/tracks/drift\\_lbis\\_2024\\_1.html](https://studentdrifters.org/tracks/drift_lbis_2024_1.html)

## HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students, grades 3-6, will continue with the President's Fitness Challenge, which includes the 5 major areas of their fitness. Additionally, Mr. Lamarco and I have been preparing for "Summer Olympics 2024" Field Day which takes place Friday, May 31st.

Summer is almost here! After our amazing Kickball game against the local Police departments, the students have been requesting we play more kickball on the blacktop! These kids have fully mastered the game and we've been having some very competitive games now. We are quickly coming up to Field Day this Friday! Mr. Colino and I have some very exciting and fun games planned for all the grade levels. Water balloons to World Cup Soccer!! Looking forward to seeing you all at the EJ School for a fun filled day!



Participants of our first annual Books Versus Badges Kickball Game 2024.



# Preschool News



This month, we will have caterpillars in our class and watch them grow into butterflies. The butterflies will be Painted Ladies. We will explore the life cycle of a caterpillar to a butterfly. We will also watch the seeds that we planted grow into flowers. The flowers will be a Mother's Day gift for all of the moms in our class.

Our new theme is Construction. The dramatic play area will be a construction site where we will have pretend tools and build things. We will learn about different tools and different materials that buildings are made out of. We will also learn all about different types of transportation that are used to carry heavy things and dig up large areas.

Throughout the month, we will try to build letters, numbers, and shapes using materials in the classroom! For our literacy lessons, we will review all of the lowercase letters from n-z. Every day, we will listen to a new alliteration and guess the letter sounds we hear.

In math, we are doing a countdown to the end of the school year. Every day is a number of how many days are left. We are using this special number- and seeing how it looks as a word, ten frames, and tally marks. We are also using our knowledge of counting forward and trying to count backwards!



EJ Spring Show- How Does Your Garden Grow? is underway.

# Kindergarten Crew May Happenings

We are continuing to practice our phonemic awareness skills now that we know all of the letters and letter sounds! We are rhyming experts and love to listen for rhymes all around us! We now “own” 40 high frequency words that we can use in our reading and writing! We are improving our reading by breaking down CvC and CvCe words. We are also focusing on story structure, sequence of events, and understanding story characters.

In Math, we will complete our last topic which is focused on describing and comparing measurable attributes of objects. We are looking forward to a fun Playground Measuring activity! Our trip to Storybook Land was a fun way to wrap up all that we learned this year. Next up...Field Day and then GRADUATION - we can't believe we will be First Graders soon! This is such an exciting time!



Kindergarten Crew practiced making “feeling statues” with the Worry Woos author Andi Green.

## First Grade

As the 2023-2024 school year comes to a close, all of the students here in 1st grade are very eager for the upcoming school year and all that they will be learning in 2nd grade.

In Math we have started to familiarize the students with some of the material that they will be learning in 2nd grade to give them a little bit of a jump start and ease any worries they may have. We've worked on telling time to the nearest 5 minutes, addition and subtraction within a wider range of numbers, and how to count money.

In Phonics, we are continuing to grow as readers and are spending the last few weeks reviewing all of the skills that we have learned throughout the school year. For Social Studies, we are learning about goods and services as well as needs versus wants. Since September, the students have all come very far academically as well as socially and emotionally, and we couldn't be more pleased! Even with all of the changes and craziness that this year has thrown at us, our students have grown leaps and bounds and we will miss seeing their smiling faces every day here in 1st grade!

## SECOND GRADE

It has been a very busy month in Second grade! Earlier this month, students had their EJ Spring Concert. They sang their hearts out and really did an outstanding job! Second graders continue to work hard, and show that they are ready for additional responsibilities as they get closer to becoming third graders in the fall.

In ELA, second graders published a persuasive essay about where they think would be the best place to go on a class trip. They learned about how to state their opinion clearly, and support it with strong reasons and details. Maybe they will succeed in convincing their teachers about a worthwhile class trip to take in the future? Students also practiced summarizing one of the stories in their Wonder's Textbook. They will end the year with a novel study of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

In Mathematics, second graders completed a unit on Geometry. They learned about various shapes and their attributes. Students were able to identify and describe 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional figures, along with dividing figures into equal shares. To end the year, second graders will be working on a measurement unit, where they will select appropriate measuring tools, estimate, and compare measurements.

For Social Studies, second graders are learning about basic economics concepts, including the difference between producers and consumers.

Lastly, in Science second graders have been learning about plants and animals. They learned about life cycles and what plants and animals rely on for survival. Students have enjoyed growing and observing grass plants during this unit. This was followed up with a trip to the Cape May Zoo, where students explored animals in their natural habitats. What a wonderful trip! Second graders had an amazing time!

## THIRD GRADE

Third Graders can't believe this is their last full month of school. They are so excited about the warm weather and Field Day! In Math, they have been learning about the attributes of two-dimensional shapes. Science has them learning all about plant and animal life cycles, adaptations, and traits. They are patiently waiting for their seeds to sprout! In ELA, they have been enjoying some of Ms. Messec's and Mrs. Freeman's favorite novels and practicing writing about their reading.

## Fourth Grade

4th grade is full steam ahead as we prepare to move into our last month of school! Our class trip next month is geared toward learning about the Industrial Revolution in New Jersey. We will complete an online Scavenger Hunt to learn more about the local history of our state. Speaking of states, our States and Capitals lessons have been a fun part of our activities this month. We are making Dioramas of the state we learned about through our Technology Slide Presentations!

We have been getting our math brains in tip-top shape with our study of geometry, measurement, graphs, and angles. Science Lab has been focused on Oil Spills and environmental cleanups. We are continuing to learn skills from our Reading book, but will get the chance to experience various Read-Alouds until the end of the school year.



Congratulations to one of our students for WINNING SECOND PLACE in the Ocean County Government Poster Contest! He and Mrs. Maschi will soon be attending a County Government meeting to be recognized as one of the TOP WINNERS in the County! We are so proud of all our student participants!

## Fifth Grade

The fifth graders are excited for the end of the school year. We are wrapping up literature circles in ELA. In Social Studies students are continuing to learn about the Revolutionary War. The kids are looking forward to Field Day, our class trip and summer!

## Sixth Grade

The 6th graders are in the final stretch of their time as LBI students! They are counting down the days to graduation and looking forward to all of the fun activities the PTA has in store for them like Bay Day, Field Day, and a morning at Fantasy Island. Last week they had a blast at Six Flags Great Adventure and made some core memories on the roller coasters with their friends and teachers.

There is plenty of learning to squeeze into these last few weeks as well. In ELA, students will be writing an Ode poem to a favorite place or memory in the LBI School. In Math, the construction of Geometrocitcity is under way where students use nets to construct 3D structures. In Science, the sixth graders will be spending some time outdoors tracking and analyzing weather patterns.



Sixth Grade had a fantastic time celebrating the end of the year at Six Flags Great Adventure!



# GARDEN NEWS

Greetings from the EJ Garden - Our garden has been unusually bountiful this year with many taste tests being created in the cafeteria by Ms. Maria, our School Lunch Hero. Taste testing has included juiced beets receiving a thumbs-up from "most" students. EJ Garden kale and lettuce have also been added to our student's salads. The next round of harvesting and taste testing will include spinach, strawberries, radish, snap peas and edible flowers. The students' seedlings met with great success as they were able to provide a "Garden Giveaway" to parents and guests who attended the spring show "How Does Your Garden Grow?" All guests left beaming with gratitude for the ability to start their own garden at home with the seed packets and summer veggie transplants. The giveaway also included bags and bags of lettuce, swiss chard, cilantro, parsley, bok choy and garlic scapes.

