



Long Beach Island Consolidated School District

“Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report

September 2024

Long Beach Island Consolidated School District



We had a very exciting start to the school year, and I am happy to say everything went smoothly! A tremendous thank you to all our staff members, our main offices, custodial crew, bus drivers, and teachers who came in during the summer to make sure their classrooms and websites were ready for making our first few weeks such a success.



We have wonderful opportunities ahead to make a difference in the lives of the students and families within our district, and we look forward to developing communication between the schools and homes. This year, our priority remains to increase students’ growth in their learning through meaningful and innovative collaboration with staff, students, and parents.

Our first official parent meeting took place at our Back-to-School Night on September 4th at the Ethel A. Jacobsen School and September 5th at the Long Beach Island Grade School.

Teachers at both schools shared daily routines and schedules, along with the many exciting projects and activities students and parents will take part in this school year. Last year, 2023-2024, the NJSLA and i-Ready assessments indicated many areas of high academic growth. On average, most of our grade levels scored above the State by several points. 5th Grade Science did exceptionally well - with the State average score being 169 and our students' scoring 195!

With this, the teachers will focus on Reading and Math skills, and families will be engaged in learning about the importance of each.

As a reminder, please join the The Parent-Teacher Association. The PTA will hold meetings and events throughout the year. The first PTA Meeting of the 2024-2025 school year was held on Thursday, September 12th at the LBI Grade School.

We invite you to join us for the district's first annual "Fun Run" at the EJ School on Thursday, September 26th at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend and run/walk!

We look forward to the 2024-2025 school year!

Best,

Dr. Peter Kopack



LBI and EJ Grade Schools staff and students gathered at their schools to honor, sing, and pay tribute on Patriot Day.



Parent Teacher Association



Being a member of the PTA means you support the many events and programs the PTA provides to enhance your child's school life. You can also directly participate in the various activities that the PTA initiates throughout the school year. We sincerely invite you to join and become involved in as many of the activities as you wish. We could use your talents!

It is a great way to meet new friends, teachers, and administrators; and have a positive impact on your child's school life. Membership is available to everyone! Please complete the PTA membership form and enclose your cash or check for \$10.00 in a sealed envelope labeled LBI PTA Membership c/o Judy Meehan or Venmo to @Lbipta. Please include your Venmo name to confirm receipt of payment.

We would like to thank our PTA for their continued support. Thank you to all of the parents and teachers for their time and efforts!

Below are some of the activities/events planned as the school year begins!

- Woodies/Flamingo Golf Fundraiser: Friday, September 20th (Woodies from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Flamingo Golf from 3-6 p.m.)
- Raffle ticket sales end 9/30/24, the first ticket will be drawn October 7th
- Clothing Drive - October 19th at EJ
- Book Fair - Oct 27-Nov 1 - EJ and LBI

Science Grade Level Happenings

Our 5th and 6th grade students have been working on collaborative learning strategies in the science room through partner activities such as barrier games and have been applying science practices through planning and conducting small group investigations. Students also have been practicing science vocabulary to improve retention by collaboratively writing skits to be developed into digital stories using Scratch.

Our fourth grade students have been investigating volcanoes and analyzing patterns in data to explain what causes eruptions in various locations globally. Our third grade students have been practicing engineering skills by designing solutions to problems involving forces and gravity.



Our music program is well underway. Immediately this school year, students began preparing songs to commemorate Patriot Day. At the LBI Grade School, all classes performed "God Bless America." We also performed two original compositions by Mr. Cotov: "Patriot Day" and "First Responders." Eleven Ukulele Club members and two clarinetists set the accompaniment for the event which took place beneath the half-mast American flag on September 11th .

At the EJ school, Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grades gathered to sing “God Bless America” and “First Responders” as Mr. Cotov accompanied on guitar. In music class, students have already used percussion instruments and keyboards in small groups.

HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We’ve had an exciting first few days here in Phys Ed and Health at EJ! We started our year out practicing spatial awareness games and activities. This will help prepare us for our upcoming games and lessons. We will be practicing locomotor moves Ex; jogging, running, hopping, skipping, and kicking in the upcoming weeks. Once we've mastered our locomotor skills we will be looking to start our first fall sport of Soccer!

In the Health room we will be discussing what makes a “Fantastic Friend.” This will include conversations on what makes a nice friend compared to a “not” nice friend. The students will take a pledge in class to always be a “Fantastic Friend.”

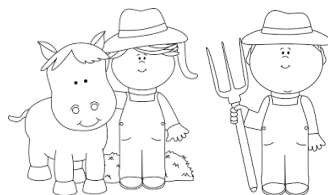
For grades 3-6, we begin the year with classroom rules and expectations as well as our emergency drills and procedures. We then partake in a variety of spatial awareness games and activities to get our students comfortable with safe movement within groups. We will feature the activity Topple Tube Knockdown, as it is popular with our students and helps with a variety of skills and team strategies.

LBI School Health Office- Heights and weights were completed for all grades, Vision screening is in progress...

Personalized Enrichment Program (PEP)

There are 14 different choices for PEP this marking period. They include academics, music, physical fitness, arts and sciences, theater/public speaking, technology and community service. PEP meets one day per week, for 30 minutes.

Preschool News



The PreK class will be learning what our names look like and which letters they begin with. Around the room, our names are everywhere. We are also learning our friends' names. During our table toys time, we are matching letters that belong in our names. This is helping us develop our knowledge of different letters. We are also beginning to write our names. As the year goes on, we will be writing our names on a daily basis.

For the month of September, we have a Farm theme. Throughout this theme, we will be exploring what farmers do, what animals live on the farm and what can grow on the farm. We will be taking trips to the school garden to learn about how things grow. We will investigate the life cycle of apples and pumpkins.

Kindergarten BOOT CAMP

We made it through our first week of Kindergarten! We spent time learning procedures and routines. We got to know each other and created a classroom contract that we all signed. We discussed how we are a classroom family and shared our All About Me bags. It was a great first week for our Kindergarten Crew!

Our cadets have now entered Kindergarten Bootcamp! They are working on certification in six skills: crayons, markers, pencils, play doh, scissors and glue. We believe that children work best in a structured classroom and benefit from clear expectations, repetition and the safety and comfort of routine. When they know exactly what to expect and how to accomplish tasks they feel confident and proud. When they feel that way they are more apt to attempt new things and step out of their comfort zones when new material is introduced. That's where the growth comes from. We are so proud of our crew and can't wait to see the rest of their growth this year.

In Social Studies, we will continue to learn about school rules, working together, and good citizenship skills. We are jumping right into ELA with a review of letters, letter sounds, and letter formation. We are beginning math with numbers and 1 to 1 correspondence. In Science, we will become scientists! We will begin using observation skills in our school garden and document our findings in our science journals. Later this month, we will be celebrating Johnny Appleseed Day with a discussion of apples and an apple taste test. We will then use our science and math skills to graph that information. We are excited to share this school year with our new classes and look forward to a wonderful year!

First Grade

Wow! Can you believe we are back to school already? We are only in the first full week, and we have covered so much ground work. In first grade, we are using the Orton Gillingham approach for phonics. Currently, we are reviewing our consonants, vowels, and basic digraphs. The first couple of weeks of school will be spent introducing the new materials, reviewing our basic sounds, and building CVC words. The children are really excited about using our sand trays and hand crafted vowel tents! We are also slowly introducing the children to Reading and Writing Workshops. It is in these workshops where we will meet with the children one on one to explore and build on their strengths as readers and writers. They will be given guidance and directions through compliments and support on an individualized basis. The children are really looking forward to reading and writing this year!

As for math, we are working on basic addition and subtraction. We will be solving word problems, learning how to write equations, and solving equations with known and unknown parts. Our focus in Social Studies is on America. Much like in the classroom, we will begin learning about rules and laws.

Then we will learn about some American symbols. We will then transfer over to leaders and will learn about how we vote for leaders in our country. Perfect timing!!!

Science is teaching us about what it means to be a scientist. Science experiments are lurking around the corner, be ready for exciting conversations at the dinner table throughout this entire school year. These little minds are about to expand tremendously! As always, we look forward to working closely with parents, families, and of course the children!

SECOND GRADE

Second Graders are off to a terrific start this school year! They have shown that they are ready to handle second grade responsibilities, including being role models for the younger students. During the first week of school, students got to know one another through sharing objects from their "Me Bags." They also created colorful art projects which included statements about themselves. These projects are on display outside of the second grade classrooms.

Students have begun instruction in each core subject area. In Spelling, students have been reviewing the Orton Gillingham methods that are used weekly in learning phonics skills, and began their first two weeks reviewing short vowel sounds. In ELA, second graders have shared information about themselves in their first piece of writing for the year. In addition, students are reading stories in the Wonders Reading Series which focuses on families and how they can be similar and different from one another. Their first anchor text story is called "Big Red Lollipop." In Math, second graders have been solving basic addition facts with fluency. Next, they will work with equal groups to solve equations. Students will identify even and odd numbers and will learn about arrays.

Later this month, arrays will be tied into an EJ Garden event, where second graders will be harvesting tomatoes and peppers to make salsa that the entire school will get to try! In Science, students are investigating matter and its properties. In Social Studies, second graders are learning about citizenship and the importance of following rules and laws in our community.

We are looking forward to a successful school year!

Third Grade

Third grade is starting the year strong! They are doing an amazing job practicing the rules and routines in their new school. PEP classes will begin on Wednesday 9/18. Our students are very excited to be offered this program. We have been diving into our Wonders ELA program. They have been doing a great job reading and writing about narrative nonfiction stories. In Math, we are starting the year learning how to multiply and divide whole numbers. Much of our math this year will be centered around those operations. The 3rd graders are eager to work in the science lab with Ms. McBride. We are so lucky to have that opportunity once every week!

Fourth Grade

The Fourth Grade has enjoyed a wonderful start to the school year! We are already learning many things about this fantastic group of students. We're starting with the Northeast Region on our exploration of the USA. We are working on Place Value, Rounding, and Ordering Numbers in our Math series. In Language Arts, we are diving right into our first story, working on new skills as we learn about natural disasters. We are tying this fascinating topic into our Science program and Science Lab time, as well. We look forward to discovering and expanding upon the many capabilities of this talented group of students!

Fifth Grade

The year is off to a great start in 5th grade! Expectations have been discussed with students and goals have been set. Switching classes has been an adjustment, but we love it. In ELA we are setting up our Language notebooks. We cannot wait to start our "40 book challenge." In Social Studies we are discussing the original people and how they started everything off. PEP is going to be fun!! It has been a great start.

Sixth Grade

The 6th graders are eager and ready to make their last year at LBI the best one yet! We have spent the first few days establishing procedures and routines in each class and encouraging students to find methods of organization and accountability which work for them. In ELA, we dove right into reading and annotating our first short story and are working with our first mentor sentence to highlight grammar skills and author's craft. In math, the 6th graders are reviewing decimal arithmetic before beginning algebraic content. They have enjoyed using their new lockers and are excited to begin PEP this week.

GARDEN NEWS

The EJ Garden is flourishing with the help of this year's Summer Volunteers and the garden thanks: the Haggert/Hagler Family, the Kaszas/Jones Family, the Markey Family, the Wright Family, the Poole/Johnson Family, Chris Halpin, Katy McClellan, Liz Purks, Mary Mirisola and Ed Ronk for their many hours of volunteering. Without you - our garden would be ALL weeds.

Currently, we have a handful of Tomato Hornworms that we are battling (hand-picking) in the garden. The Hornworm is not actually a worm but is a very hungry caterpillar, 4 inches in length and the girth of your thumb. We have relocated five (5) of these Creepy Crawlers because each was defoliating the tops of our tomato plants. At the rate these caterpillars are eating, we hope to have enough tomatoes to work into the garden-based learning (GBL) presentation. Fortunately, the very hungry caterpillars are "perfect" for integrating an Agriculture Literacy connection into PreK3.

This year, each classroom is preparing for a visit from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Farm-to-School Program during Farm-to-School Week. This NJ cohort will be visiting the garden, cafeteria and classrooms on September 26th. The garden will have more details on this event and the cross-curricular GBL lesson plans as our opportunities unfold.

