

Long Beach Island Consolidated School District

“Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report

October 2024

Long Beach Island Consolidated School District



A tremendous thank you to our school community, Board of Education members, parents, staff members, and especially to our students for an amazing September and October. We are looking forward to Parent/Teacher Conferences, October 28th - 30th at the EJ and LBI Grade Schools.

As we begin the new school year, teachers have been working with NJSLA data and the iReady diagnostics. The district assesses students in Grades 1-6 (three times per year) using the iReady platform. The teacher has access to provide students and parents with personalized instruction based on their iReady assessment scores. The program also provides intuitive, personalized reports with actionable data to track student progress. As you know, our priority remains to increase students’ growth in their learning through meaningful and innovative collaboration with staff, students, and parents.

The Long Beach Island School District supports the “Happy Feet Project” sock collection sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of LBI by making a difference in the lives of homeless veterans, homeless families, and abused women with children in need by giving them a new pair of socks. If you would like to participate, new socks of all sizes can be sent in with your child to the LBI Grade School and EJ School. The deadline to donate is October 31st.

Thank you to Surf City and Ship Bottom Fire Departments for donating their time to give fire prevention programs and equipment demonstrations to all of our students during Fire Prevention Week.

As a reminder, please join the Parent-Teacher Association. The [PTA](#) will hold meetings and events throughout the year. The next PTA meeting is November 14th.

Best,

Dr. Peter Kopack



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 upcoming activities/events:

- Challenge Island Assemblies, October 17 and 18
- Clothing Drive, EJ School, October 19th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Pietro's Fundraiser (say LBI School Fundraiser when you order), October 23rd from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Scholastic Book Fair, October 25th - 30th



Special thanks to our PTA for sponsoring a LEAD U character education assembly and workshops for LBI Grade School students!



Our sixth graders have been figuring out the structure and properties of matter through several experiments and activities. Using 2D (computer simulations) and 3D student-made models, students have been describing and comparing the structure and composition of molecules and compounds. Other activities included exploring properties of matter such as density and determining the effect of temperature on reaction rate during chemical reactions. In addition, students have been analyzing data about properties of substances before and after changing the substances to determine whether a chemical reaction has occurred.

Students also are currently working on a science newsletter using the digital software tool, Canva. Lastly, students are using the engineering design process and investigating green chemistry to find out how this can be used to create solutions for reducing plastic pollution.

Our fifth graders have been observing and measuring matter with various measuring tools in the science room. Students also have been planning and conducting investigations using observations of properties of matter to identify materials based on their properties. In addition, students have been making mixtures and solutions to compare and contrast their properties as well as making models to explain the structure of matter.

Our fourth grade students have been investigating the structure and function of internal and external plant parts. We began exploring the parts of a flower with a virtual dissection in which students determined the structure and function of the parts involved in pollination and fertilization of plants. Then students dissected celery stems to figure out the internal structure and function of the stem and how the components of the stem interact with other structures to aid in the survival of the plant. Lastly, students also investigated the structure and function of animals and compared their adaptations.

Music with Mr. Cotov

Our younger students have been going into the EJ Garden to perform "I'm a Little Scarecrow" with Mr. Cotov accompanying on the guitar. They are learning reading skills by sounding out lyrics from "I'm a Little Ghost" as well. We also use percussion instruments to perform rhythms.

In the LBI Grade School, students are learning materials for the upcoming Veteran's Day events. Ukuleles are learning an original song entitled "We Love Our Veterans" composed by our music teacher, Mr. Cotov. Select clarinetists will introduce the song before the entire school sings to our Veterans.



Under the direction of Mr. Cotov, students and staff observe Patriot Day at the EJ and LBI Schools.

HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In class students will be starting their 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 Consolidated School District received a certificate of recognition for achieving their top 3 "Most Engaged Schools" from Atlanticare Healthy Schools for the 2023-24 school year. This award was received at last week's annual steering committee meeting of which two of our teachers attended.

Preschool News

Prek3 has had a great start to the school year! We have learned the morning routine of talking about the days of the week and the weather.. We finished learning about colors and shapes and have started working with the alphabet. We have learned the letter A and are working with the letter B this week. We even went out to the school garden and picked purple peppers!

Kindergarten Crew October Happenings

In ELA we are celebrating the alphabet, and we did a letter hunt in the EJ garden where the children worked in teams to find the missing letters that were hiding among the flowers and vegetables.

In Math we learned how to write and count numbers 0-5 and to compare groups of equal, greater than, and less than.

In Science/Social Studies we are reading books, discussing information, and enjoying projects centered around apples and fire prevention and preparing for Halloween!

In writing we just finished up a 3 week illustration unit that culminated in the children's first story!



Kindergarten Crew working cooperatively to search for uppercase and lowercase letters in the garden and having a blast!

First Grade

September sure flew by! It's hard to believe we're in October already! The students in 1st grade have really settled into our routines and understand classroom expectations very well! In Phonics this month, we will begin by working on compound words and flossy words (words that end in double letters like floss, jazz, or off) and will finish the month with syllable division.

For Math, the students are doing a really great job solving doubles facts and near doubles facts. We've been using a lot of different manipulatives to get our hands involved in the learning! In Science, we will be finishing up learning about sound and how it travels through the air in the form of vibrations. While in Social Studies we are learning about various symbols of the United States of America along with how our government and country work! October is a busy month for everyone and we are really looking forward to Halloween.

SECOND GRADE

Second graders have had a terrific start to the school year, and continue to serve as amazing role models for their peers at EJ. Our second graders continue to handle school and classroom procedures with ease. We are so proud of their hard work during this time. Students were extremely excited to have time in EJ garden last month to harvest tomatoes and peppers which provided the ingredients for salsa to be shared at the “Cream of the Crop” Garden Presentation. Our second graders loved this activity and enjoyed taste-testing this healthy snack straight from our garden.

Our second graders continue to work hard in all content areas. In Math, students have been working on Fluently Adding and Subtracting within 20 and have moved toward using strategies to Add within 100. We work daily to improve our basic math fact fluency by completing basic math fact drills for practice. We are excited to announce that the second grade will work with equal groups to create arrays made of pumpkin seeds to show various repeated addition equations. Their creations will be on display in the hallway at EJ for November please come by to see them.

In ELA we will be studying the fantasy genre and working on sentences that describe by creating descriptive spooky sentences for Halloween. In Spelling, we are currently working on final blends using the Orton Gillingham method of practice. In Social Studies second grade is continuing to learn about our nation's government specifically the three branches of government and the importance of being a good citizen. Finally, in Science, the second grade is continuing their work on Unit 1 Properties of Matter. Students have been observing various objects and identifying objects by their properties.



Fire Prevention Programs at EJ and LBI. Special thanks to the Surf City and Ship Bottom Fire Departments for putting on a great presentation!

THIRD GRADE

Third graders are doing an awesome job of following our classroom rules and routines and earning new privileges and rewards. They continue to practice multiplication facts and have learned a variety of strategies such as: drawing pictures, using arrays, number lines, and bar models, and skip counting. They have also enjoyed watching fun multiplication videos and learning some cool multiplication tricks. We want those basic facts to stick!

The 3rd graders have begun using the scientific method in the Science Lab by experimenting with Skittles and different water temperatures. Predictions, observations, questions, and beautiful designs were made! They are showing what they know during Readers Workshop by practicing reading skills and studying different genres of literature. In Writers Workshop, they are working on an opinion piece. The 3rd graders learned all about the teachers' dogs' likes and dislikes. They are trying to persuade Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Messec to choose their costume idea for Sabrina or Bear and Sebastian. The possibilities are endless!

Fourth Grade

October is a month full of learning! We are working on multi-digit multiplication in Math class. In Science we are studying Body Systems. Our travels across the United States in Social Studies have us learning about the Southeast Region, where we will discuss climate, industry, and landscape. This month we will also continue with our Reading program, learning and applying various skills to the stories we read. Some Autumn decorations adorn our hallways, with Acrostics, pumpkins, and leaves adding color and enjoyment for all to enjoy.

Fifth Grade

The fifth graders are really in the swing of things! They are working on their first big writing assignment in ELA. In science they are wrapping up states of matter after many hands-on experiments. While in math they are going to be starting a monster project that incorporates multiplication. In social studies, they wrote patriotism essays and are continuing to study Native Americans. Students are looking forward to all the fun things fall has in store!

Sixth Grade

In math, students have begun learning about integers and rational numbers. They have been practicing graphing and comparing them. Later in the month, the 6th graders will explore the coordinate system and will create their own coordinate plane design using ordered pairs.

In ELA, the 6th graders are full speed ahead with their first novel of the year. They have enjoyed reading and discussing *Maniac Magee* as a class and examining the author's use of figurative language, sentence structure, and style. We are focusing on narrative techniques, characterization, and author's craft. In addition to studying mentor sentences from the novel, they will be drawing inspiration from the novel to write their own fictional narratives this month.

GARDEN NEWS

We did it! The EJ Garden has floated to the top of all NJ schoolyard gardens and was crowned "Cream-of-the-Crop" by the NJ Department of Agriculture. We are the 1st school in NJ to receive this recognition. In addition, our School Lunch Hero, Maria Rivera received the NJ Farm-to-School "Top Tomato" award for all the innovation she has brought to our students by featuring garden produce in the cafeteria. These awards took an incredible amount of teamwork and more detail can be found in this week's SandPaper. The article link is here: [State Presents Ethel Jacobsen Elementary With 'Cream of the Crop' Award](#)



Nurse Aniski received the "Cream-of-the-Crop" Award on behalf of EJ students and staff, summer volunteers, and the Board of Education- congratulations on being one of the first schools in New Jersey to receive the award!