VOL. 1, ISSUE #1

Londonderry Link

LONDONDERRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

November 2024



4TH GRADE ALL DRESSED UP FOR RED RIBBON WEEK

Principal's Message

Welcome to our brand new, monthly newsletter! After a lot of consideration and a review of our weekly newsletter, I believe this monthly format allows us to do a better job of providing you information regarding events and happenings at Londonderry, as well as sharing the positive stories that emanate from the school each day. We are increasing our Dojo messages for events to increase communication, and this newsletter serves as a look at the month ahead and the happenings from the prior month.

October at Londonderry
October was a busy month at Londonderry. The Londonderry Fire Company visited us to celebrate Fire Prevention Week (see p. 6), the Lower Dauphin High School Orchestra visited our students to perform a joint concert and teach about the instruments of the orchestra, and we celebrated Red Ribbon Week. Students from Londonderry participated in the Special Olympics (see p. 2) where they had a great showing! Our fourth grade visited the PA Capitol and met with Rep. Mehaffie (see photo - p. 3) and our fifth grade learned all about Puerto Rico (see p. 3) and visited Camp Hebron. We also welcomed a new staff member to the Londonderry Family (see p. 4). We celebrated Unity Day as a school and held our fall PTO Book Fair. Lastly, we held our largest Trunk-or-Treat to date, with over 215 young people participating!

November at Londonderry
As we turn the page into November, we will be recognizing the men and women who served our country at our annual Veterans Day assembly on November 11th, and will close out Trimester 1 at the end of the month.

I hope you find this issue informative and learn a little more about the awesome work being done at Londonderry!



In this newsletter you will find:

Feature Stories: Special Olympics & Fire Company Visit

PTO Updates

Counselor's Corner

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New Staff Introductions






Londonderry Excels at Special Olympics

Earlier this month, students from Londonderry Elementary School traveled to the East Pennsboro School District to participate in the fall Special Olympics. Roy Gesford, PE Teacher at Lower Dauphin High School, organizes participation for students throughout the district. Londonderry students met up with our friends from South Hanover Elementary to represent Lower Dauphin elementary schools!

Each student-athlete is paired up with buddy helpers at the event. These buddy helpers assist students in getting between events, help them with event participation, and ensure they have a fantastic experience! Twelve students from Londonderry took part in the event and did a WONDERFUL job representing our school.

A huge congratulations goes out to our student-athletes on their performances, and a big thank you to Mrs. Freeman, Mr. McCoach, and staff for supporting a memorable event!



Reading Center

Please join us for a galaxy of books! This is a night to share our district plans and policies that guide our Title 1 Reading Program. It is an excellent opportunity for you to provide input and insight into our program and ensure that you feel we are meeting the needs of our students. The event will take place on Thursday, November 14th from 6:00-7:00 pm at the Middle School. There will be activities for students during the event.

Please RSVP by completing the following Google Form: https://forms.gle/riXwJTxSKBNKzVSj7



Counselor Corner

Earlier this year, the Lower Dauphin School District adopted *Leader in Me* as a core program in all schools. *Leader in Me* is based on Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. While we will not be teaching this program until the 2025-26 school year, staff are spending the entire year learning about the habits, setting goals, and preparing to implement the program!

On November 21st, Londonderry joins with others around the world to recognize Children's Grief Awareness Day. You can learn more about the day globally at the following external link:

https://www.childrensgriefawarenessday.org

Grade Level Highlights from October


NURSERY RHYME OLYMPICS

Kindergarten

Kindergarten held the Nursery Rhyme Olympics to celebrate the completion of our first CKLA unit! We practiced reciting rhymes we learned, then followed it up with an activity. Kinders participated in the Humpty Dumpty Egg Race, Miss Muffet Spider Maze, Jack-Be-Nimble Hopscotch, Diddle Diddle Dumpling Shoe Match, Pin the Sheep on Bo Peep, Mother Goose Waddle and Twinkle Twinkle Night Sky Drawings. We will be learning all about the five senses in the month of November.


PA AG LAB

First Grade

First Grade taught a unit on preventing the spread of germs using a hands on lesson with glitter. We are excited to start learning about the First Thanksgiving and to make our own pumpkin pies. We will be writing “How To’s” to explain the process.


2ND GRADE SCIENCE

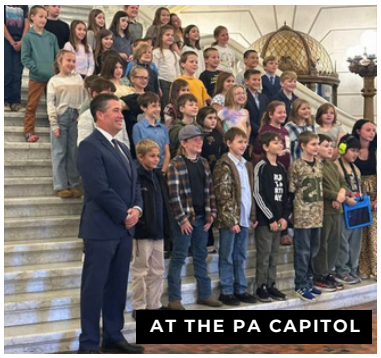
Second Grade

Second grade is learning about volcanic and river rocks, their properties and what changes can be observed in and outside of water before and after weathering. We have shared rocks that students have personally collected from family trips and enjoyed identifying those rocks. We have also been reading and learning about being a good citizen and writing about how to be Londonderry leaders both inside and outside our classrooms.


FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Third Grade

3rd grade has started learning different properties to multiply. This month we are excited to learn about how to connect area and multiplication, then begin learning fractions. In November we will be focusing on learning about the culture in France. Toward the end of the month, we will create a STEAM project to display what we learned about France with the school.


AT THE PA CAPITOL

Fourth Grade

Students in 4th grade participated in the Candy Bar Election this past week! We used (boatloads) of Halloween Candy to run our own Election Simulation from Caucus to Inauguration! Students will vote on Monday, November 4th for their favorite Candy-date! Be sure to ask your favorite 4th grader “who” they are voting for!


PUERTO RICAN FOLK ART

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade has been researching and learning about Puerto Rico. We'll be decorating the hallway with informative displays and decor to celebrate the culture of this US territory. We were excited to be the first grade to carry out a cultural display as part of the planning for a family World Cultures Night that will be held in May!

Around Our Hallways



Art

Many of the classes have earned their first “Free-choice Day” of the school year in art class for having good behavior. During their “Free-Choice Day”, the students are encouraged to use the art skills that they have learned with a variety of materials in their own creative way.



Library

Students enjoy self selecting library books for their reading. We learned alot about book care and being responsible with our library books. Second through fifth grades participated in the VFW Coloring contest with winners to be announced at the end of the school year.







Music

All classes are singing, moving, and learning about different parts of music. 2nd and 5th grades have begun rehearsing chorus music for the winter concert. Orchestra and Band lessons for 4th and 5th grade started in September, and the new players are off to a good start.



PE/Health

This past month in PE, the older students (3-5) kicked things off by learning the game of 4-square, practicing their hand-eye coordination as well as working on quick feet. The younger students (K-2) learned the skill of striking a ball with an open hand. All students showed amazing effort and worked hard to improve their skills. We wrapped up October with a special Halloween Game (Trick or Treat) that brought plenty of smiles and sweat to the gym. It was a month filled with fun, fitness, and teamwork.

New Staff Members

Mrs. Wise (Kindergarten)
Mrs. Kim Wise joined the Londonderry family to teach Kindergarten (replacing Mrs. Goodyear). Mrs. Wise has a decade of experience teaching Kindergarten and is an active member of the Lower Dauphin School District community.

Mrs. Vogel (Learning Support)
Mrs. Emily Vogel is joining our Londonderry family on November 11th to teach Learning Support. She is joining us from the Lebanon School District where she taught Middle School Emotional Support. Mrs. Vogel will be working with students in Grades 4 & 5.

Monthly Calendar
November 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Cycle Day 5 1 STEAM Club - 5th Grade (8:00AM) Character Parade (2:30PM)	2
3	Cycle Day 6 4 After School Play (3:30PM) Sub Sale Pickup (After School) PTO Meeting (6:00PM – 500)	5 **NO SCHOOL** ***Election Day***	Cycle Day 1 6 Little Readers Club (12:30PM) Jr. Club O (3:30PM)	Cycle Day 2 7 Fall Picture Retakes (AM) Study Buddies (3:30 – 4:30PM)	Cycle Day 3 8 Doughnuts with Grownups (8:00AM)	9
10	Cycle Day 4 11 Veterans Day Program (9:30AM) After School Play (3:30PM)	Cycle Day 5 12	Cycle Day 6 13 Jr. Club O (3:30PM)	Cycle Day 1 14 Study Buddies (3:30 – 4:30PM) "Galaxy of Books" District Title I Parent Meeting & Student Event (6:00PM - LDMS)	Cycle Day 2 15 STEAM Club - 3rd & 4th Grade (8:00AM)	16
17	Cycle Day 3 18 After School Play (3:30PM) School Board Meeting (7:00PM)	Cycle Day 4 19	Cycle Day 5 20 Jr. Club O (3:30PM) *Support Professionals Day!*	Cycle Day 6 21 Study Buddies (3:30 – 4:30PM) **END OF TRIMESTER 1** *Grief Awareness Day*	Cycle Day 1 22 STEAM Club - 5th Grade (8:00AM) Falcon Family Meetings (AM) *Substitute Professionals Day!*	23
24	Cycle Day 2 25 Fall Parent-Teacher Conference Signups Open	Cycle Day 3 26 **EARLY DISMISSAL (12:30PM)**	27 **SCHOOL CLOSED**	28 **SCHOOL & OFFICE CLOSED**	29 **SCHOOL & OFFICE CLOSED**	30
1	Cycle Day 4 2 **SCHOOL REOPENS** Apple Dumpling Orders Due PTO Meeting (6:00PM)					



KINDERGARTEN VISITS WITH THE LONDONDERRY FIRE COMPANY

Londonderry Fire Company Visits for Fire Prevention Week

On Friday, October 11th, Londonderry Fire Company No. 1 visited the students at Londonderry Elementary School as a part of Fire Prevention Week. Students in Grades K-3 participated in a lesson with members of the department. The theme for this year was - smoke alarms, make them work for you! Students learned about the importance of having working smoke detectors in their home. All students were able to visit the equipment outside (including using the hose)! Fourth Grade students also participate in an essay contest that focuses on the annual theme. Thank you to the fire department for visiting our students and keeping our community safe!

Updates from the PTO

Thank you to everyone for making the Marianna's sub sale a great success. We also hope everyone enjoyed the book fair and we appreciate the support for the event. We are trying a new fundraiser this year and selling apple dumplings. More information to come. We also have a good supply of sweet, meat sticks in a variety of flavors for sale. Contact the office if you would like some. We will be having a raffle at the Doughnuts with Grownups event, so please bring cash to purchase some.

UPCOMING PTO EVENTS
Nov. 4 - Sub Sale Delivery and Pickup
PTO Meeting
Nov. 8 - Doughnuts with Grownups
Dec. 2 - Apple Dumpling Orders Due
Dec. 11 - Apple Dumpling Sale Delivery & Pickup

Accessibility for All at Londonderry

On November 14, World Usability Day is celebrated. People around the world celebrate making materials and services easier to use/access for all. All around the world, professionals and community members are working to show how usability impacts everyone's daily life. At Londonderry, we are working to make our school more usable for all students to enjoy through adapted swings, communication boards, and much more! You can learn more about World Usability Day at the external link below.

https://www.worldusabilityday.org/about-us/

Thank you for reading our newsletter!