



# LADSBS News...



## Dr. D'Aversa & Ms. Cucinello would like to share. . .



### Important December Dates:

- 4 LADSBS Winter Band, Orchestra, Chorus Concert 7:00 p.m., NCR
- 6 LADSBS, AMPS Report Cards Posted
- 10 Parent-Teacher Conferences, K-5 No Student Attendance
- 11 Board of Ed. Meeting 8:00 p.m., MPHS
- 13 [LADSBS Club Sign-Up](#) Deadline
- 13 [Battle of the Grades Food Drive](#) ends
- 19 So Fun City Gameshow, Grades 3-5
- 16-20 [Holiday Spirit Week](#), LADSBS
- 12/23 - 12/31 Winter Recess Schools Closed

The month of November marked the beginning of the holiday season with keeping kindness at the forefront of our thoughts. Guidance character education lessons focused on anti-bullying and being kind to one another. The students in grades 3-5 were visited by a special guest, famous musician/songwriter Jared Campbell. He performed a concert for all to inspire and promote kindness and care.

In honor of Veterans Day, during Social Studies, students learned the importance and history behind the holiday. During ELA, the students wrote thank you poems to the veterans at the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook.

The month of December will be filled with joy and cheer. Our theme for the month throughout the building is inclusivity along with our guidance character education lessons of responsibility.

The "[Battle of the Grades Food Drive](#)" continues to take place through December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please review the list of needed items by grade, which is posted on the school website. Because of your generosity and support, we will be able to provide to our local families who may be facing food insecurity the necessary food to have a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. Any leftover food items will be donated to the food pantry located at the North Country Road Middle School.

Parent conferences will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. In order to make sure these meetings are as productive as possible and the teachers understand your child's strengths and needs, the following are some tips for preparing for your conference:

- Let the teacher know prior to the meeting if there is a particular concern you would like to speak with them about.
- Let the teacher know the best way and time that you can be contacted.
- Review your child's report card and be prepared with any questions you may have.

We will be holding a festive "[Holiday Spirit Week](#)" from December 16<sup>th</sup> – December 20<sup>th</sup>. Details on the daily themes are posted on the school website. We encourage all to participate in the holiday spirit week as we have some fun activities and events planned during this time.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, *So Fun City Game Show* will be visiting LADSBS. Here, the students will work together as a team to compete in STEAM challenges. The show promotes team building and problem solving as a group. Students can volunteer to participate in challenges and will also be able to participate as a group/grade.

As we make our way into the winter months, we will continue to go outside at recess. Please be sure to have your children dress appropriately and come prepared with winter coats, gloves, and hats. If your child is missing something they may have left behind at school, please encourage them to visit our lost and found.

On behalf of everyone at the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School, have a happy and healthy holiday and Happy New Year!





## Third Grade Thoughts . . .

The hustle and bustle of December is upon us! Our third graders have completed their first trimester here at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School. We have a lot to help keep their focus during this exciting time of year!

In Math, we are beginning Module 3. In this module our third graders will be expanding their knowledge of multiplication and division focusing on units of 0, 1, 6 through 9 and multiples of 10. Practicing multiplication and division at home will help third grade math concepts become easier to grasp all year long!

Throughout the second trimester, our third graders will be learning the geography and culture of our country. In Science, we will be beginning our study of forces and motion.

In English Language Arts, we will continue to read stories in our HMH series, looking at a variety of new texts and genres. Students are encouraged to read every night to help build up their reading stamina.

We are very proud of how hard our students work every day. We wish all the third grade families a very happy and healthy holiday season and look forward to seeing them in 2025!



## Fourth Grade Focus . . .



How exciting it is that the winter holiday season has arrived! As we step into the colder months, we look forward to creating more special memories in our classrooms. During November, the fourth grade classes focused on the theme of gratitude, reflecting on the many people and things we are thankful for this year. In honor of Veterans Day, some of our fourth graders wrote letters to Veterans thanking them for their service. Ms. Abbriano and Ms. Runfola both invited military family members to visit their classrooms to share more about their responsibilities and duties as service members.

Academically, November was a bustling month filled with growth and achievement. In ELA, students enjoyed reading a variety of different texts and genres as we continued to work through the *HMH Into Reading* program. We explored skills such as monitoring and clarifying while reading, identifying the central idea vs. the theme of a text, analyzing text features, understanding literary elements, and more. In math, we are working our way through Module 3, focusing on multi-digit multiplication and division. Students practiced using numerous methods to solve these problems, while also discussing ways we could apply these skills to real-world situations. In social studies, we dove into the geography of New York by learning about different cities, landforms, and bodies of water located in our state.

Looking ahead, December promises to be an exciting and busy month! In ELA, we will begin reading a new novel, while in math, we will begin practicing long division. We will transition back to science for a unit called, "Powering Thru The Fair." Students will take a virtual field trip to the NYS Fair in order to investigate the energy used there. We will follow a map to visit a roller coaster, ball toss, bumper cars, and more, all the while exploring ideas such as speed, collisions, and energy conversions. Your fourth graders will even make their own circuits using batteries, wires, light bulbs, buzzers, and a few other materials. Their goal will be to make a closed circuit, so the light bulb and buzzer will work.

The fourth grade teachers are looking forward to speaking with everyone on Parent-Teacher Conference Day (December 10<sup>th</sup>). Our fourth grade team wishes all our families a holiday season filled with health and happiness. Your support, encouragement, and involvement make all the difference in your child's success, and we deeply appreciate your partnership. Thank you for being such an integral part of our school community!



## Fifth Grade Flash . . .

How wonderful is it that the winter holiday season is upon us! As we make our way into the colder months, we will continue making those special memories within our classrooms. The students have been collecting non-perishable items during the month of November and will continue until December 13<sup>th</sup> to support our community.



We began our Athletes Helping Athletes program where Miller Place High School athletes came into each of our fifth grade classrooms to share their experiences. They have become wonderful role models for our fifth graders, and we look forward to their visit again in February.

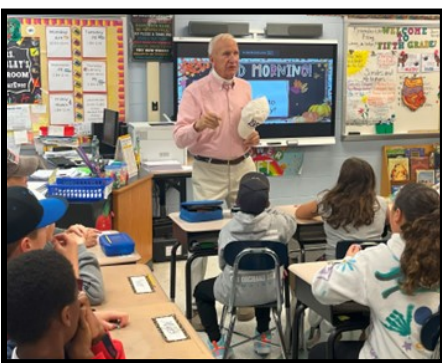


Academically, November was in full swing, and your children thrived! In ELA, we began our first novel study, Esperanza Rising. This historical fiction novel takes place in the midst of the Great Depression. The story follows the life of a young girl, Esperanza, as her world is turned upside down after tragedy strikes her family. In math, we have been working with multi-digit whole number and decimal fraction operations. Students have been applying their knowledge of patterns of the base ten system to mental strategies and the multiplication and division algorithms. In social studies, we are just finishing with unit one on Ancient Civilizations, and in science, we are ending our wonderful “hands-on” experience from the “Toys Matter” unit.



With help from Mrs. Healy, Mrs. Casazza, Ms. Warren and Ms. Stringer’s fifth grade classes used their STEM and collaboration skills to create Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons, which will be attached to Indi Cars and paraded along a collaboratively designed route. First, students learned to use the color sensors on the Indi Cars to program a path. Then, the class read *Balloons Over Broadway* before beginning to design their balloons. Using engineering skills, their floats are going to be “Parade Ready.” Finally, the class worked together

to map out a parade route for their Indi Car “floats.” We were so excited to bring this Thanksgiving STEM project to life!



Mrs. Tremblay’s fifth grade class had a very special guest last month, Mr. Laddie A. Decker! During this very special visit, Mr. Decker taught the kids about the special history of LADSBS including the thought that went into the planning of the building’s layout. He went on to share some important life lessons where he used a wood carving of his that contained four pillars: *family, friends, health* and *values*. In addition, Mr. Decker read The Kissing Hand which highlighted the idea that it’s okay to feel scared sometimes but also encourages them to be brave and open to new experiences. Mr. Decker will return in the spring to visit all the children for “Laddie Day.” Details will be provided.

Looking ahead, our December is going to be busy! We have our music concerts on December 4<sup>th</sup>, and we have our Holiday Spirit Week before the Winter Break begins. We will also be having our Parent Teacher Conferences on December 10<sup>th</sup> (more specific information will be announced by your classroom teacher). Communication has and always will be held in high regard to our fifth grade staff because it is such an important component to the success of our students. We are looking forward to this day, and to discussing each student’s progress so far this year.

In closing, we hope that this holiday season brings health and happiness to all of our families. We know that behind every student is a family who cares, encourages, and stays involved. We kindly thank you for your continuous support.



# Community Corner . . .

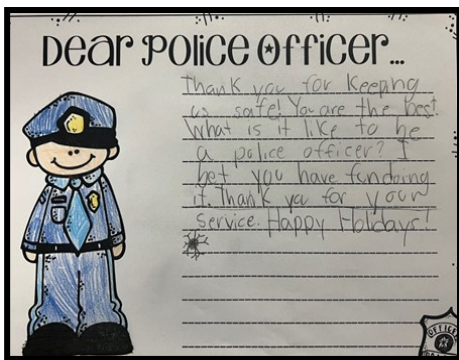
Thank you to all of our students and family for continuing to participate in our “[Battle of the Grades](#)” food drive collection. The competition among grade levels to collect the most items has begun!



★★★  
 ★ 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 554 ★  
 ★ 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 407 ★  
 ★ 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 299 ★  
 ★★★



Student volunteers have helped sort and package over 1,200 items, and we were able to help so many families in need during the Thanksgiving holiday. Our food drive continues through December 13<sup>th</sup>, so there is still plenty time for the Battle of the Grades to continue collecting before one grade level wins a prize in December. We are looking forward to giving back to the community throughout the holiday season and beyond. We appreciate your continued generosity in donating!



We would like to thank Mrs. Mock’s, Ms. Brenner’s, and Ms. McCann’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classes for showing support to our local veterans by creating over 60 cards expressing gratitude and appreciation for their service. The cards were delivered to the Long Island Veterans Home in Stony Brook on Veterans Day.

Mrs. Mock also helped organized another wonderful project by introducing our students to “Beyond the Badge”, a New York local non-profit organization, whose mission is to raise mental health awareness within first responders. This is their 6<sup>th</sup> annual “Cards for Cops” event where they collect holiday and thank you cards from students which are then disturbed to precincts and departments throughout New York!

# Marvelous Math . . .

Math is all around us! From going to the grocery store, to preparing a meal, we are using facts every day. Here are some fun ways to make math learning a part of your family routine.

### Supermarket Math Hunt:

When walking around the grocery store ask your student to grab a specific number of items. For example, can you get a carton of eggs that has 9x2 eggs inside?

### Get Cooking:

Numbers are a huge part of cooking. Take out those measuring cups and spoons and follow a recipe. Want even more of a challenge? Double or triple the recipe and share what you make with your family and friends.

### Family Game Night:

Break out the cards and board games and have some fun. Try games like Life, Multiplication War, or Sorry!

The most important thing to remember is to have fun with math! We are sure you will find many creative ways to practice those math skills!



## Music Musings . . .

**Band News:** The Fifth Grade Band is so excited for their Winter Concert this month. On December 4<sup>th</sup> we will be performing at the North Country Road Middle School. We have done so much work in order to get these songs ready for you all to hear. We hope you can smile and hum along as we play these holiday classics as well as some new songs! The Fourth Grade Band students are loving getting the opportunity to play more complex and familiar music. Right now, we are working on playing our instruments as a group. We hope you all have a happy and healthy Holiday Season!



**General Music:** This month in General Music, we're preparing the holidays with a focus on songs of the season. Students will be working relentlessly to master festive tunes on the glockenspiel. We're also continuing to refine our music theory knowledge, rhythm skills, and teamwork through fun activities like *Pass the Beat A-Round the Room* and bucket drumming. Our essential question this month is, "How can we work together to create a outstanding performance?" Students will grow their listening, coordination, and collaboration skills as they get ready for the concert. We're excited to hear their progress and see them shine!



**Fourth Grade Beginner Strings:** Our Fourth Grade Beginners have made impressive progress on their string instruments! Students are honing their ability to stay in rhythm, playing with more confidence and long bows and developing an incredibly strong left hand. The students need to build muscles in their hands that they never knew existed before this year. We've also been focusing on refining their bow technique and posture. Sitting and standing with excellent posture is one of the core values that playing a string instrument can help develop. Daily practice at home is key to continuing this growth. Twenty minutes minimum per day will make a big difference in their musical development.

**Fifth Grade Chorus & Orchestra:** The Fifth Grade Chorus and Orchestra have been hard at work preparing for their first concert on **December 4<sup>th</sup>**, and their progress has been incredible! We are polishing the final details of our musical selections, and everyone is looking forward to showcasing their hard work. The concert will take place at **North Country Road Middle School at 7:00 p.m.**

### Arrival Details:

- **Chorus & Band members**

Arrive by 6:30 p.m. for warm-ups and procedure review.

- **Orchestra members**

Arrive by 6:15 p.m. with instruments for tuning and warm-ups.

All orchestra members, including double bass, must bring their instrument to the concert.

### Concert Attire:

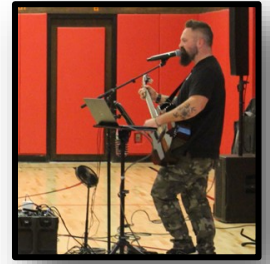
Please dress for a formal look to help create a polished and festive atmosphere:

- **White on top** (button-up shirt, blouse, or dress)
- **Black on bottom** (dress pants, skirts, or dresses)
  - **Black shoes** (boots, heels or loafers)

Add a **subtle pop of color** in accessories to capture the holiday spirit. *Please avoid t-shirts, sneakers, ripped clothing, hats, or light-up/noise-making accessories.*



# Kindness Corner . . .



LADSBS students and faculty were very excited to welcome back one of our favorite visitors, Jared Campbell, for another one of his interactive music performances! Jared Campbell is an award winning singer/songwriter from upstate New York. He's been acknowledged by Billboard Magazine as one of the top independent musicians in the northeast.

Jared performed for grades 3-5 at LADSBS, with fun and inspirational songs that focused on anti-bullying, team building, and spreading kindness to all. This performance was embedded in our monthly theme of kindness and character education lessons of gratitude at LADSBS.

Jared's songs are uplifting, thought provoking and emotionally heartfelt. The students enjoyed this event as they danced and sang along with Jared and spread kindness to all.



The LADSBS School Kindness Initiative continues to thrive with kind acts observed daily. Throughout the year students who display superior character and kindness may receive a coupon. The coupons are entered into a monthly raffle to win a token to use on the Book Vending Machine.

### Congratulations to our November raffle winners:

*Stella Velliotis, Ethan Erpanur, Sadie Pachter, Logan Weigel, Presley Braun, & Molly O'Callaghan*





## Art-I-Facts . . .

Art that looks good enough to eat! Fifth graders recently completed a sculpture assignment where they modeled clay to look like a realistic food item. Fourth grade students were taught how to enlarge and zoom in on an image to create close up hyper-realistic drawings of candy. Next, we'll be creating balloons, weaving and learning to paint landscapes.



## School Spirit . . .

### Holiday Spirit Week

Some of our favorite Holiday Spirit themes are back, and we are all very excited to share our Panther Pride this season:

**Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> - Wear your Favorite Holiday Colors**  
(wear red, green, silver, gold, blue, and white to show your holiday festive colors)

**Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Headgear Day**  
(wear your favorite holiday headband or hat)

**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> - Winter Holiday Movie / Storybook Character Day**  
(Dress as your favorite winter movie or storybook character)

**Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> - Warm and Cozy Day**  
(wear your favorite holiday sweater)

**Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Jammies**  
(wear your favorite pajamas)

We hope the excitement of our holiday spirit week and activities continues to spread throughout the season to all of our students, staff and families. Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday see you in **2025!**

EVERY STUDENT MATTERS. . . EVERY MOMENT COUNTS

## Board of Education

**Lisa Reitan, President**  
**Bryan Makarius, Vice President**  
**John Galligan, Trustee**  
**Andrea Spaniolas, Trustee**  
**Johanna Testa, Trustee**



## Don't Forget...

Clubs will begin in January! The deadline to sign-up is December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Select your preferences today!  
[LADSBS Club Sign-Ups](#)

Citizenship...We help others!

## District Office Administration

**Seth A. Lipshie, Superintendent of Schools**  
**Susan G. Craddock, Assistant Superintendent**  
**Sandra A. Wojnowski, Executive Director for Educational Services**  
**Colleen V. Card, School Business Official**  
**Christopher J. Herrschaft, Director of Human Resources**  
**Ron Petrie, Administrator for Physical Education, Health,  
Athletics and Intramurals**  
**Kurt Roth, Administrator for Instruction and Data Reporting**  
**Barbara A. Weir, Director of Technology**  
**Dennis Warsaw, Director of Facilities**  
**Jeremy Koch, Administrator for Pupil Personnel Services**

## Just a Note . . .

- Please make sure to check our Lost & Found table for missing coats, jackets, water bottles and other student belongings. We encourage any parents visiting LADSBS for Parent Teacher Conference Day on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> to please stop by the Lost & Found table located in the main hallway for your child's belongings. Any unclaimed items will be donated prior to Holiday Break.



*"The sum of us is greater  
than all our parts."  
Maya Angelou*