VOL. 1, ISSUE #2

Londonderry Link

LONDONDERRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 2024



3RD GRADE WORKS ON A COLLABORATIVE STEM ACTIVITY

Principal's Message

Here we are, in the final calendar month of 2024. December is a special time for many, and life in an elementary is no different. Our hallways are alive with joy, the walls are filled with decorative displays, and our calendar is kicking into high gear.

Before we turn our attention to December, there are some special moments from November that I would like to touch on. One of our favorite days at Londonderry is our annual Veterans Day celebration. It warms our hearts to see the pride in our students' faces as their family and neighbors are celebrated for their service to our country. There is nothing quite like hearing the voices of 250 students joining together in patriotic song! You can read more about the event on page 2 in this newsletter.

We also turned our attention to gratitude in our Falcon Family meetings. Each student created a paper quilt square to celebrate what they are grateful for this year. These pieces were put together to make a schoolwide Gratitude Quilt. You can read about this project and see pictures of the quilt on page 5. Our fifth grade students took part in an exciting learning journey through CodeJoy, where they live coded with peers from across the United States (page 6).

Now, we can turn our attention to December! This month we have many events for our community. We host parent conferences, have our annual Winter Concert, and our Trimester 1 Recognition Assembly. You can find dates for these on the calendar (page 5).

December is joy and the turning of the calendar page to 2025. I hope each of you finds time to celebrate the little and big moments from 2024, and I look forward to seeing many of you at one (or more) of our events in December at Londonderry!



In this newsletter you will find:

Feature Stories: Veterans Day & CodeJoy

PTO Updates

Parent Conferences

Grade Level Highlights

Monthly Calendars

New School Nurse







Veterans Day Ceremony

On Monday, November 11th, Londonderry Elementary School hosted its annual Veterans Day ceremony. This event welcomes veterans from our families and the community to Londonderry so we can honor their sacrifice and service.

This year, our guest speaker was Mr. Brad Farber. Mr. Farber is the father of Gunnar, a current Londonderry student, and a veteran of the United States Navy. He shared his experiences with our Londonderry students and answered any questions they had about serving in the armed services.

We also recognized our students who were selected as winners of the essay contest. The essay topic was why it is important to celebrate Veterans Day. Congratulations to our winners, Miles Intorre and Tennley Commella.

A big thank you to Mrs. Gilbert for serving as our faculty chair for the event, and Mrs. Galbraith for organizing the PTO-sponsored breakfast!



Reading Center

Thank you to everyone who came out to the district Galaxy of Stars Literacy Night held at LDMS. It was great seeing so many Londonderry friends!

Reading Center will be holding separate conferences this trimester. When the conference signups are released please sign up for a conference with your child's reading teacher, either Mrs. Gilbert or Ms. Mosner.

We look forward to meeting with you soon!



Counselor Corner

During the fall, we work with several local organizations to provide food and gift items during the Holiday Season. Please consider contributing to our PTO Holiday Food Drive to support these efforts.

Thank you to The Giving Tree of Hummelstown and Hershey for providing new winter coats to many of our Londonderry children.

Thank you to the Pennsylvania State Police and the Middletown VFW for providing Thanksgiving meals to many of our families.

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to address with me during Parent-Teacher Conferences, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

Grade Level Highlights from October


READING BUDDIES

Kindergarten

November was filled with learning all about the five senses, learning our first eight letter sounds, and fun activities like a Five Senses popcorn party and our version of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade! In December, kindergarten will be learning more letter sounds and building new words with the CKLA series pilot. Students will also hear and explore popular stories, including Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks & the Three Bears. In math, they will begin shape exploration and learn all about the -teen numbers. We will continue our awareness and practice of school and classroom rules and expectations, practicing kindness, cooperation and respect.


MAKING HOLIDAY PIES

First Grade

First grade enjoyed making & eating pumpkin pies.

Rocket Math will begin soon to practice addition fact fluency.

They will be learning about different Winter celebrations around the world.

Students did an excellent job with learning the first trimester sight words. We will begin learning more for our second trimester.


PRACTICING OUR READING

Second Grade

Mrs. Bastian and Mrs. Schmidt enjoyed introducing second graders to Sphero indi. Indi is a car-shaped learning robot which allows students to experience unplugged programming using a color sensor and color coded tiles. The children love learning simple computer science principles in a fun and interactive way.
Second graders have been really working hard to "Be Awesome" and get caught showing off their leadership skills in the cafeteria and classroom. They have enjoyed exchanging their "Be Awesome" cards for rewards, too.


CELEBRATING COZY DAY

Third Grade

In December, 3rd grade is learning about how multiplication and division are related and beginning to memorize their multiplication/division facts. For social studies we are continuing our research about France to share our culture with the school. Students are researching and doing STEM projects involving the Eiffel Tower, Arc De Triomphe, and Notre Dame. In reading, students are learning about the central message, unfamiliar words, author's point of view, text features, and focusing on grammar lessons for writing. Mrs. Kratz and Mrs. Weary look forward to meeting with parents/guardians during conference time.


CREATING GRATITUDE TREES

Fourth Grade

In December, fourth grade will be jumping into new Science and Social Studies lessons. In Science with Mrs. Berry, students will explore electricity and electric circuits with our fun Digital Breakout Room entitled, "The Night the Lights Went Out!" In Social Studies with Mrs. Hahn, students will use primary and secondary sources to learn about the Prehistoric and Indigenous Peoples native to Pennsylvania. Be prepared with extra layers this season! Outdoor and indoor temperatures tend to fluctuate in central Pennsylvania.


BUILDING PARADE FLOATS

Fifth Grade

5th grade is celebrating the 98th year of the Macy's Day Thanksgiving Parade! Students compared and contrasted a nonfiction text and Balloons Over Broadway to learn about the history of this fun event. Students then worked in groups to design balloons to "travel" on the streets of New York for this year's Londonderry parade. The balloons traveled on Finch robots that the students coded to navigate the parade route.

Around Our Hallways



Art

What we are currently learning in art:

- Kindergarten-Primary colors mix to make secondary colors.
- 1st Grade-
  - Artists use stamps on clay projects to create designs and texture.
  - The order of the primary and secondary colors on the color wheel.
- 2nd Grade-
  - Primary colors + Secondary colors = Intermediate colors
  - Light affects the values on an object.
- 3rd Grade- How to create a weaving.
- 4th Grade- Mixed Media collage (This project is an art contest that will be judged by members of the Londonderry Lady Lionettes.)
- 5th Grade- How to create Monoprints.



Library

Students celebrated Non-fiction November as they read and did activities related to books that contain facts and information. In addition, we read the short fable, “Our Table” by Peter H. Reynolds and completed activities related to the moral of the story.
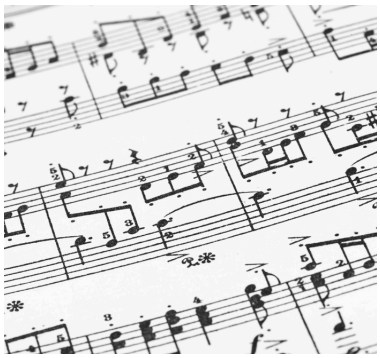
Parent Conferences

With the conclusion of Trimester 1 in November, we are in the process of scheduling parent-teacher conferences. These conferences provide an opportunity for us to share your child’s progress and to discuss instructional supports your child may be receiving.

Our goal each year is a conference with the parents or guardians of each student. In order to schedule your parent conference, please visit the link below.

ptcfast.com/schools/LondonderryFall24

If you have specific questions about scheduling, please contact your child’s teacher.



Music

5th grade and 2nd grade are working hard to prepare for the winter concert happening on December 12th. 4th grade began playing the ukulele this month, and they already know how to play some simple songs.



PE/Health

Students began the month working on the skill of overhand throwing. The older students used this skill to throw at targets while the younger students built the foundation for overhand throwing by breaking it down into steps. All students finished the month stuffing a turkey (trash can) with all different types of equipment to get ready for Thanksgiving.



New Staff Member

Ms. Zimmerman
(School Nurse)
Ms. Zimmerman join Londonderry right before Thanksgiving as our new school nurse! She comes to us with a lot of experience in nursing in the private sector. Welcome to Londonderry!

Monthly Calendar
December 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cycle Day 4 **2** PTO Meeting (6:00PM) LDSD Board Meeting (7:00PM – LDMS)	Cycle Day 5 **3** PTO Apple Dumpling Sale Orders Due by Noon	Cycle Day 6 **4**	Cycle Day 1 **5** Study Buddies (3:30 – 4:30)	Cycle Day 2 **6** STEAM Club – 3rd/4th (8:00AM) **REPORT CARDS SENT HOME**
Cycle Day 3 **9** **PARENT CONFERENCES**	Cycle Day 4 **10**	Cycle Day 5 **11** PTO Apple Dumpling Order Pick Up (4:00PM – 5:30PM) Conference Night (4:00PM – 7:00PM)	Cycle Day 6 **12** Holiday Concert (1:30PM & 6:30PM) Study Buddies (3:30 – 4:30) **Holiday PJ Day**	Cycle Day 1 **13** STEAM Club 3rd/4th/5th (8:00AM) Falcon Family Meetings (PM) **TBD**
Cycle Day 2 **16** **PARENT CONFERENCES** LDSD Board Meeting (7:00PM – LDMS) **White Christmas – Wear White**	Cycle Day 3 **17** **Dress for Your Favorite Christmas Movie**	Cycle Day 4 **18** **Reindeer Games – Dress as a Reindeer or in Winter Sports Attire**	Cycle Day 5 **19** Trimester 1 Assembly (9:30 – 10:30) Study Buddies (3:30 – 4:30) **Festival of Lights – Wear Blue & Yellow**	Cycle Day 6 **20** Holiday Assembly (1:30PM) **Ugly and/or Holiday Sweater Day**
23 **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS**	**24** **SCHOOL & OFFICE CLOSED**	**25** **SCHOOL & OFFICE CLOSED**	**26** **SCHOOL & OFFICE CLOSED**	**27** **SCHOOL & OFFICE CLOSED**
30 **SCHOOL & OFFICE CLOSED**	**31** **SCHOOL & OFFICE CLOSED**	**1** **SCHOOL & OFFICE CLOSED**	Cycle Day 1 **2** **SCHOOL REOPENS**	Cycle Day 2 **3**

LUNCH MENU ON PAGE 7



5TH GRADERS PARTICIPATE IN A CODEJOY ZOOM CALL

5th Grade Students Join Live Coding Session

In November, 5th grade students joined their peers from across the United States to participate in a live coding event through CodeJoy. CodeJoy provides interactive, live programming sessions for students. During the session, students learn programming, vary codes to identify results, and ask questions of the live host.

Londonderry students joined with students from Nye Elementary School to represent Lower Dauphin in the session. The students practiced their coding online and even had one of their codes selected to be used by the host in the live session! This was a great learning experience for our students!

Updates from the PTO

Thank you to everyone who attended the Donuts event in November and to Sheetz for donating the donuts. We are trying a new fundraiser this year and selling apple dumplings. Classes are collecting items for the holiday giving baskets to donate food to families in need. We are looking for someone to chair the skating event in February, if interested please email the PTO. We would like to thank everyone for their support in 2024 and look forward to a great 2025!! Londonderry Proud!

UPCOMING PTO EVENTS
Dec. 2 - PTO Meeting (6:00PM - Room 500)
Dec. 3 - Apple Dumpling Orders Due
Dec. 11 - Apple Dumpling Sale Delivery & Pickup

New Webpage

If you have not visited the Lower Dauphin or Londonderry web site lately, it has undergone an upgrade. The brand new site launched a few weeks ago and includes a lot of easily accesible information for families and the community.. We will continue to build out the site now that it is live!
You can visit the new site at: londonderry.ldsd.org



Thank you for reading our newsletter!

December 2024 Lunch Menu

Chartwells School Dining Services
Lower Dauphin Elementary Schools
December 2024 menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Sausage, Egg and Cheese Bagel Hash brown	3 Chicken Nuggets Dinner Roll Baked Fries	4 Cheese Steak Broccoli	5 Hot Dog Baked Beans	6 BBQ Chicken Sandwich Corn
9 French Bread Pizza Tossed Salad	10 Crispy Chicken Patty Green Beans	11 **Lucky Tray Day** Tacos w/ Meat and Cheese Seasoned Corn	12 Pulled Pork Sandwich Baked Beans	13 Bacon Cheeseburger Crinkle cut Fries
16 Macaroni And Cheese Carrots	17 Chicken Tenders Tater Tots Dinner Roll	18 Sloppy Joe Sandwich Smiley Fries	19 Walking Taco Refried Beans	20 Chicken Quesadilla Steamed Corn
23 **No School**	24 **No School**	25 **No School**	26 **No School**	27 **No School**
30 **No School**	31 **No School**			
		The National School Lunch Program is operated in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture	*Lunch Price* *Regular $2.60*	

Alternate Lunches

Monday:	***Tuesday:***	***Wednesday:***	***Thursday:***	*Friday:*
Chicken Nuggets Grilled Chicken Salad w/ Ranch Dressing Smucker's PB & J Uncrustable Fresh Broccoli w/ Ranch	Cheeseburger **Fun Lunch** Chocolate Chocolate Chip Muffin, Strawberry Banana Yogurt & String Cheese Smucker's PB & J Uncrustable Baby Carrots w/ Ranch	Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup Crispy Chicken Popper Salad w/ Dinner Roll Smucker's PB & J Uncrustable Celery Sticks w/ Ranch	Chicken Patty Sandwich Nacho Fun Lunch Smucker's PB & J Uncrustable Cherry Tomatoes w/Ranch or Roasted Garbanzo Beans	Big Daddy's Cheese Pizza Taco Salad Smucker's PB & J Uncrustable Fresh Baby Carrots w/ Ranch

Daily Milk Choices Include: Skim White, Low Fat White, Fat Free Chocolate, and Fat Free Strawberry, *Assorted Fruit Selections served daily with each meal* *Chartwells is an equal opportunity employer*