

# JANUARY LADSBS News...



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

### Important Dates:

- 1-3 Winter Recess  
Schools Closed
- 6 Harlem Wizards  
Visit, All Grades
- 7,8 Clubs Begin  
LADSBS
- 13 [LADSBS Steam  
Night](#)  
*Snow Date:* Jan. 14
- 20 Dr. Martin  
Luther King Jr. Day  
Schools Closed
- 22 Board of Ed.  
Meeting 8:00 p.m.  
MPHS
- 29 Lunar New Year  
Schools Closed
- 31 MPHS Jazz  
Ensemble Visit, Gr. 5

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that you had an enjoyable winter break with family and friends. December was filled with holiday festivities and events at LADSBS. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, "So Fun City" presented a team building game show for all our students. Here grades 3-5 worked as a team to complete tasks and win challenges. Our [Holiday Spirit Week](#) was filled with color and creativity. A slide show has been posted on the school's website for you to see!

January provides an opportunity to reflect over the past year, as well as look ahead to 2025. I would like to encourage parents and students to discuss how school has been going and set goals for the new year. Whether it is improving in a particular subject area, reading more, improving math facts (multiplication or division), or establishing a new routine, this is the time to do it. Here at school, we will continue to keep parents updated about your child's performance, and we encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher with any concerns you may have. Communication between school and home can often help in solving academic problems when they arise. By working together, hopefully everyone will have a successful start to the new year, both in and out of the classroom.

We are also very excited for the start of clubs on January 7<sup>th</sup>. There are a variety of opportunities that the teachers of LADSBS have provided your children, and we encourage their participation. Student drop-off takes some time, so please be patient as we unload students safely into the building. To help with this process, please have students on the passenger side of the car as you pull up to the cafeteria doors.

Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School STEAM Night will be held on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:45-8:20 p.m. Students are invited to participate in STEAM-related classroom activities involving Zip Lines, Catapults, Race Cars, Ozobots, and many more. Each classroom activity will be facilitated by the LADSBS faculty. You can also join us in the Expo Center where a variety of organizations including One River Art School, Miller Place Robotics, and our local public libraries will be facilitating activities. Registration for the event runs through January 10<sup>th</sup> and can be found by [clicking here](#) or on the LADSBS Homepage.

As we head into the colder months, please remember to send your children in with hats, gloves, and winter coats for outdoor recess. We will do our best to get everyone outside for recess. Also, be prepared with childcare plans in the event mother nature requires us to dismiss students early. We will do our best to provide advance notice prior to releasing students, but this can happen fairly quickly!

As always, we thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at STEAM night and all the wonderful events ahead.



## Fifth Grade Flash . . .



December flew by in a whirlwind of holiday festivities, school spirit, and a wonderful mix of learning and laughter! A major highlight of the month was the much-anticipated Gingerbread House Decorating event. Students had a blast designing and constructing their own gingerbread houses using colorful candies, frosting, and edible decorations. It was the perfect blend of teamwork, creativity, and holiday spirit, with each house showcasing the effort and imagination of our talented fifth graders. Additionally, students embraced holiday-themed writing activities, crafting stories about magical winter adventures, and festive traditions.

In ELA, our fifth graders took a break from HMH to dive into the beautifully written novel, *Esperanza Rising*. In *Esperanza Rising*, students will explore the themes of resilience, hope, and personal growth through the story of Esperanza Ortega, a young girl who faces immense challenges after a tragedy changes her life. As they read, students will analyze how Esperanza transforms from a life of privilege to one of hardship, learning valuable lessons about overcoming adversity, the importance of family, and adapting to new circumstances. The novel also provides an opportunity to discuss cultural heritage, empathy, and the significance of community in difficult times.



In math, students successfully completed Module 2, mastering multiplication and division of multi-digit numbers. They are now excited to begin learning how to add and subtract fractions, a skill that will further develop their understanding of number relationships and expand their mathematical abilities.

In addition this month, students explored the states of matter, studying solids, liquids, and gases through hands-on experiments and engaging activities. They investigated how matter changes states and the role temperature plays in these transformations. They also learned about early civilizations, exploring the rise of ancient cultures and their lasting contributions to modern society.

As we move into the new year, we are excited about the many more adventures and projects awaiting our fifth graders. Thank you for your continued support and for being a part of our wonderful classroom community.

## Third Grade Thoughts . . .

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a healthy and joyful holiday season. Our students have returned to school refreshed and ready to dive back into learning!



In Math, we are excited to begin our pilot program, *Eureka Math*<sup>2</sup>, starting with Module 3. This unit focuses on exploring multiplication and division through units of 10. We will revisit the commutative property from Module 1 and dive deeper into the distributive and associative properties. As with many mathematical concepts, building a strong foundation is essential for future success. We encourage all students to practice their multiplication facts at home to strengthen their skills!

In Science, we are wrapping up our weather unit. Students have been learning about weather patterns, the water cycle, and tools used to measure rain. Hopefully, we'll have a chance to put our weather knowledge to the test with some snow this month!

Our students are working hard every day, and we couldn't be more proud of their efforts. Thank you for your continued support, and have a fantastic month ahead!

## Fourth Grade Focus. . .

Welcome back to the new year fourth grade! During our holiday season, fourth graders at LADSBS participated in a “Deck the Halls” activity. The students listened to Stevie Wonders song, “*Someday at Christmas*”, as a motivation to think about the holiday season as more than just an exchange of store bought gifts. We discussed gifts that could make the world a better place. The students considered non materialistic items they could share with others. Some ideas they thought of were: food, security, hope, creativity, warmth, concern, and smiles. Each child wrote about their “Gift to the World” on a Holiday light bulb. Everyone’s bulb is on display in our hallway to “BRIGHTEN UP OUR WORLD”!



During the month of January, our fourth grade classes will continue our science unit, “Powering the Fair” to learn all about energy. Last month, students made solar ovens and baked smores to show how energy can transfer from one form to another. Everyone tested this experiment by making their very own delicious smores snack!

For the first month of the new year, our students will move on to fractions in math. As always, students will also be working to improve problem solving skills.

In ELA, students will try their hand at some opinion writing during the next couple of months. For reading, classes will start the month working on a novel study, *Because of Winn Dixie*, by Kate DiCamillo.

In Social Studies, we will begin this year studying the Native American People of New York and how they have influenced the people, government, and the society of our state.

We look forward to watching these fourth graders learn and grow in 2025!

# Art-I-Facts...



Students spent the month of December working hard to complete their art projects. Third graders painted bold, graphic versions of snow owls and bears inspired by outdoorsmen/adventure enthusiast/artist Erik Abel. Fourth grade students wove beautiful wall hangings and fifth graders created "mylar balloons" out of tinfoil.



# Kindness Corner...

We are continuing our LADSBS School Kindness Initiative through the new year and have been observing all of the kind acts displayed throughout the building. The kindness coupons keep coming in and students have been very excited to chose from our Book Vending Machine.

Congratulations to our December raffle winners:

*Colin Donnelly, Jameson Sciotto, Gandolfo Schiavone, Khloe Alexander, Aria Laudicina and AJ Mussi*



Thank you to all of our students and family for participating in our "Battle of the Grades" food drive collection. The competition among grade levels to collect the most items was competitive! Student volunteers have helped sort and create food baskets for our families consisting of 1,418 items. We were able to donate to many families in need during the Thanksgiving break and the winter holiday break as well as to the NCR food pantry.

The final number counts for each grade were are follows:

- ★
- ★ **1<sup>st</sup> Place:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: **612** ★
- ★ **2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: **418** ★
- ★ **3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: **388** ★
- ★

Congratulations to our winners, Grade 4!! They will receive a special prize during the month of January.



# Holiday Spirit...

The hallways of LADSBS were filled with holiday spirit, laughter and cheer throughout the week leading up to our Winter Recess. Students and staff participated in a variety of themes from favorite holiday colors, headgear day, storybook characters, warm and cozy clothing, and pajama day. Faculty and staff created a collective read out loud video reading, [\*A World of Cookies for Santa\*](#). Each staff member read a country of their choice to describe how their holiday is celebrated in their country. This 13-minute clip was shared with our students during the holiday spirit week. Thank you to all the parents and family members for visiting their children's classrooms for holiday activities, and we hope everyone continues to spread kindness as we start a new year ahead!



# School Spirit . . .

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, The Miller Place PTO sponsored the *So Fun City Game Show* visit to LADSBS. Our students, faculty and staff participated in STEAM team building activities to encourage teamwork, participation and kindness. The students had a blast working together to complete the challenges and cheer for one another to foster school spirit. We would also like to thank the teachers who participated in this event with the students. The day was a fun team building experience for all.



# Library Media Center . . .

To ring in the new year in the Library Media Center at LADSBS, the students are learning the importance of sticking together and standing up against bullying with a sponsored project from Duck Tape called, "I Pledge to Stick Together Against Bullying." Students will have a conversation during their library class about what kindness is, how we can be kind to one another, and what kind of vision we have for our school. The students will take a pledge to stick together against bullying and sign their pledge by writing their name on a piece of Duck Tape and sticking it to a collective school banner.



## Music Musings . . .

Our fifth grade students just wrapped up their concert, showcasing the hard work and dedication they have put into their music. The performance was a wonderful demonstration of their growth as musicians. Thank you to all who attended and supported our students!

**Band:** The Fifth Grade Band students put on a fantastic concert last month during the LADSBS Winter Concert. The band students had a blast performing for their friends and family. They put in such hard work with countless hours of practicing both in and out of school. We are looking forward to beginning music for our next concert already! The fourth graders had a great time trying out some holiday tunes last month. They were excited to be able to perform for their families during the holidays. We are working to get ready for the fourth grade recital which will take place in April.



**Orchestra & Chorus:** The Orchestra and Chorus students are taking a brief pause from working on concert music to focus on team-building and strengthening their musicianship skills. During this time, we're honing fundamental techniques that will be key to their growth as ensemble performers, such as rhythm exercises, vocal warm-ups, listening skills, and working collaboratively as a group. We are using this opportunity to focus on developing the skills and building strong foundations necessary for our upcoming spring. This dedicated time of practice and development will allow us to return to concert music with renewed focus, energy, and excitement.

**General Music:** In General Music, the last few months have been filled with exciting learning opportunities! Students have explored the glockenspiel, tried their hand at melody writing, learned music theory, practiced singing techniques, and discovered the importance of musical expression. As we look ahead to the new year, we're excited to continue our musical journey with drumming, ukulele, glockenspiel, singing, dancing, and so much more. There's plenty to look forward to as we continue to explore the many facets of music together!

**Fifth Grade Orchestra:** After an outstanding winter concert and a well-deserved rest, the fifth graders are starting up right again for the next one. Orchestra starts the first week back from Winter Recess on every Monday and Wednesday. Rehearsal starts promptly at 7:30 a.m.

A very special thank you to the Fifth Grade Chorus students who performed prior to Winter Break for the faculty, staff, students and bus drivers upon morning arrival. They performed winter and holiday songs for all as a festive start to the day!



## Board of Education

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



## Don't Forget . . .

When picking your child up from school, please remember to bring ID. The person sitting at the desk may be a substitute who does not know you and is required to see proper ID before releasing your child.

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**

## Miller Place UFSD Job Opportunities . . .

### School Nurse

Our Andrew Muller Primary School (pre K-2) is seeking a compassionate and skilled Registered Nurse to join our District. The School Nurse will provide essential healthcare to our young students, handle daily medications, manage health records, and respond to medical needs as they arise. This position offers NYSHIP health insurance, follows the school calendar with summers off, and includes enrollment in the NYS Retirement System. Qualified candidates should hold a valid NYS RN license.



If you are interested in this opportunity please fill out the Civil Service Application listed on our website at the following link: <https://www.millerplace.k12.ny.us/departments/personnel/employment-opportunities> and email it to [personnel@millerplace.k12.ny.us](mailto:personnel@millerplace.k12.ny.us)

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