

Long Beach Island Consolidated School District

“Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report, January 2025



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's hard to believe the third marking period starts on Monday, February 3rd! As we move through the midway point of the school year, it is important we take time to discuss the importance of reading at the elementary level. This is a collaborative effort between schools and homes to develop critical skills and foster a lifelong love of learning.

Parents play an essential role in nurturing this habit by creating a supportive environment at home. There are many ways we can support this by establishing a cozy reading space, and keeping a variety of age-appropriate books accessible. Make sure to set a consistent daily reading routine and read together!

Visit the local [Ocean County Library](#), Long Beach Island Branch, bookstores, and online resources to keep reading and learning fun!

We want to express our sincere gratitude to the PTA for their unwavering support and to all the parents and teachers, especially as the PTA kicks off after-school enrichment program offerings. Additionally, a special thanks goes to those involved in the Harlem Wizards assembly. Please join us in supporting the PTA through the Burger 25 fundraiser on January 23rd.

If you haven't yet, kindly sign up to become a PTA member as they strive for 100% participation from all LBI School District families. The next Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting is scheduled for February 13th at 4 p.m. in the LBI Grade School Media Center. We look forward to working together to plan and organize activities for the upcoming months. These events not only highlight educational experiences, but instill in our students a sense of family, pride, and school spirit. Please make every effort to support our PTA by volunteering your time.

We wish you a Happy New Year, and we look forward to working together to promote the best possible educational experiences for the students.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Peter Kopack



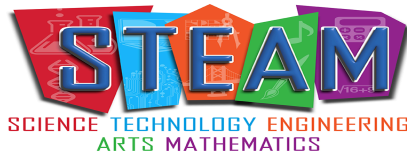
Parent Teacher Association



We would like to thank our PTA for their continued support. Thank you to all of the parents and teachers for their time and effort! Special thanks for the Harlem Wizards assembly. Also, you can support the PTA through the Burger 25 fundraiser on January 23rd. If you haven't already done so, please make sure to sign up to become a member of the PTA as they are trying to achieve 100% participation by LBI School District families. If you would like to join, please click on the following link: [PTA Membership Application](#)



The Harlem Wizards are about to have some fun and send a positive message to the EJ and LBI students. Special thanks to the PTA for arranging this wonderful assembly



Our sixth grade scientists have been exploring energy forms and changes with several investigations and digital simulations. Specifically, students collaborated to plan and conduct their own investigations to test the effect of mass on kinetic energy using classroom materials. In addition, students also designed experiments to test the effect of height on potential energy. Students also experimented with energy forms and changes through building and testing Rube Goldberg contraptions and exploring station activities to identify types of energy and transformations. Lastly, students investigated their own questions using roller coaster datasets using CODAP, a digital graphing program and created data stories about their graphs.

Finally, our students also will be participating in a Video Teleconference with scientists in Antarctica in early February. Students will have an opportunity to ask scientific questions directly to scientists and learn about the unique process of science in a remote environment. Prior to the teleconference, students were engaged in exploring interactive lessons using a STEM focused-program, "Data to the Rescue," to learn about Antarctica and interact with long-term datasets centered on penguin populations in this region.

Our fifth grade students have been studying Earth's water and investigating phenomena related to the water cycle and distribution of water on Earth. Students created and analyzed graphs (circle graphs and bar graphs) of data to explain where water is found along with the percentages of water found in certain locations. In addition, students created models of the water cycle to explain the processes that occur, and compare and contrast the models to the actual water cycle.

These students also have been investigating ocean currents through a real world phenomenon involving marine debris. Students predicted the path the debris took throughout the ocean, then plotted the actual coordinates of the locations of the found debris and tested their predictions by applying ArcGIS data of ocean currents and winds.

As a fun, holiday-themed engineering challenge, fifth and sixth grade students participated in a candy delivery challenge in which they designed and created a gift package to withstand forces involved in the holiday delivery process. These beautifully made and thoughtfully designed gift packages were created by the students and then delivered to staff in the building before the holiday break.

Music with Mr. Cotov

The music department is entering an exciting time: many weeks of exploration and refinement. In our band, new scales and songs are being learned weekly, but old concepts such as breathing, posture and tone control are reinforced.

The violin program has never been stronger. Under the direction of Mr. Cotov, the program continues to add new players. They are learning major and minor scales, new bowing techniques and many new songs. Mr. Cotov is so proud to add new chorus members as we explore classics, and pop and rock hits from all decades.

Our music classes are singing songs to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. We will also sing about our early Presidents, Punxsutawney Phil, and Valentine's Day.

HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

LBI School Health Office: Educators from the Ocean County Health Department are presenting a six week weekly substance abuse prevention program for the 6th grade titled, "We are not buying it 2.0." The program is meant to educate the students on the influence the media has on our view of alcohol and drug use.

A friendly reminder that through the winter, we are going to have OUTSIDE recess as much as possible. Please remember winter coats, hats, and gloves.

Having completed pickleball, students grades 3-6 are currently learning the skills and tactics of team handball and will progress to the sport of volleyball as we approach late January.

Our 2nd marking period PEP is grade 3 indoor soccer with grade 4&5 students assisting as mentors.



PREK JANUARY 2025



PreK3 has been busy working with the letters F, G, H and I. We made a flamingo out of the letter f and a rainbow fish. We put together a paper giraffe puzzle. We made a goat and goldfish out of the letter G. We made a horse out of the letter H and an iguana out of the letter I. We made happy snowmen that were almost as tall as we are. For Math, we are working on a 2025 Counting book. We play a game where we roll two big foam dice and count the dots on each one to add them together. We go to the gym in the morning where we practice catching and kicking with the basketballs. We learned to play Duck, Duck, Goose and Follow the Leader.

PreK-4: This month, our theme is Winter.

We will be exploring winter animals, snowmen, winter sports and igloos. In the winter, there are so many animals that hibernate and migrate. We read Scholastic's *My Big World* magazine - "Happy Hibernating Hedgehog and Big, Big Polar Bear." This will teach us all about these different animals even more!

In our dramatic play, it will be a ski resort. We will discover snowboarding, skiing, and the different types of mountains and trails. We will use our imagination to pretend that it is cold. Our sensory bin has fake snow so we will play with that and make snowballs!

For our literacy lessons, we are learning how to write letters with straight and curved lines. We are also exploring rhyming words. Every day, we will be focusing on a different set of rhyming words and using nursery rhymes to find even more words! In math, we are learning how to add numbers 1-5 and how to write the numbers 6-10.

We will also be having parents and other family members visiting our room to be a Mystery Reader.

Kindergarten Crew January Happenings

Welcome to 2025! In Kindergarten we are hitting the ground running as we come back from winter break. We started off discussing the new year. These Kinder Kids are going to shine bright in 2025!

In Word Work we will continue to explore and learn letter sound relationships and work on word building to improve our writing. In Reading we will continue to build our vocabulary, think about essential questions, work on comprehension skills and strategies in order to interact with a variety of texts. We are looking forward to beginning small reading groups! In Math we are becoming addition experts and will start learning subtraction! We are continuing to practice and improve our number sense. In Science we will be exploring weather. In Social Studies we will discuss Martin Luther King and the importance of peace and unity.

We will be creating crafts and projects centered around winter, seasons, and unity. It's sure going to be a busy and fun month of learning in Kindergarten!

First Grade

WOW! We are just about halfway through the 2024-2025 school year! Can you believe it? I am not sure how it happened so quickly, but here we are! The children are really grasping onto the concept of printed language. We have tackled many skills and strategies in our phonics program. We have recently covered beginning and ending blends. We are now moving into more involved ending blends; such blends include "Kind Old Ghosts are Wild" (-old, -olt, -ild, -ind, and -ost) and -ng and -nk blends. These blends are quite tricky, so we will spend quite a bit of time on them. We will also continue to work on synonyms and antonyms, common and proper nouns, and singular and plural nouns (including subject/verb agreement). These little tykes are taking on so much knowledge, and are really working to apply these skills within everyday language acquisition! It is really quite impressive!

We are wrapping up Earth's Surface in Science! We have learned about how the earth is made up of a variety of layers and the three main types of rocks. The children have had an awesome time learning about this. Soon we will be diving into living and nonliving things and how to use properties to correctly identify something that is living. In math, we are taking a bit of a break from addition and subtraction while we move on to place value and understanding what "tens" and "ones" are. Our Social Studies unit is focussing on families, long ago and today. We will be learning about the past, present and future. We will be introduced to what primary sources are: Using pictures, books and artifacts to learn about long ago. We will compare life long ago to life today and show how our families are alike and different. We will also learn that many cultural traditions get passed down from one generation to the next.

We are looking forward to having classroom visits sometime in the near future! If you are interested in stopping by for a read aloud or something, please let us know.

SECOND GRADE

Second graders have started off the new year ready to work! In Orton this month, second grade students have been working with words that have "Bossy R" sounds. In ELA, students began the month by researching their favorite animal and writing an informational paragraph with facts, supporting details and transitional phrases. Then, they typed their writing in a Google Doc, where they learned how to include a photograph and highlight text to make their paragraphs really pop! Students' published writing is on display outside the second grade classrooms. In addition to their animal paragraphs, second graders wrote New Year's Resolutions and completed an "I have a dream" project in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Come by and check out all of their wonderful work!

Currently, students are learning how to summarize a text. They have been working hard to use their own words to write a summary of a fairytale story. In Math, second graders have been working with numbers up to 1,000. Now they are learning strategies to add three digit numbers together. Students will move onto the strategy of vertical addition to add hundreds numbers together, learning how to regroup when needed. In Science, students are wrapping up a unit on how matter changes. They will be studying reversible and irreversible changes in matter. In Social Studies, second graders have been learning about different kinds of families, traditions, timelines and how life has changed overtime.

In second grade both students and teachers are looking forward to a successful second half of the school year!

THIRD GRADE

Third graders are becoming multiplication masters! They have been continuing to work on multiplying and dividing fluently. They enjoy reading expository texts about the Earth and the solar system. The third graders did a beautiful job writing poems inspired by famous poets and are currently working on an opinion essay. They are also reading books and watching videos about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The students especially enjoyed seeing and hearing his famous speech at the Lincoln Memorial.

Fourth Grade

Welcome 2025! Our focus in Math for the beginning of this year is learning all about Fractions. Our Science Tech Google Earth Projects are being presented in class, and we will be starting our State activity soon.

Learning about energy and motion in Science Lab has been a lot of fun. Reading and Math skills are getting stronger with our use of the i-Ready program each week. We are continuing to learn all 50 US States and Capitals by challenging ourselves online, practicing together, and working with flashcards.

We have much to be grateful for as we begin a new year, and a lot of fun learning in store for the months ahead!

Fifth Grade

The 5th graders want to wish everybody a “happy new year!” We have come back from break refreshed and ready to work hard. In Balanced Literacy we are working on text structure using non fiction. We are starting our Holocaust unit next week. In Social Studies we are continuing with the colonization of North America. Some of us even think we might have solved the mystery of Roanoke! We are looking forward to some warmer weather!

Sixth Grade

The 6th grade students are getting ready for middle school as they practice their new locker combination this month! They are also beginning to plan for middle school as they choose their elective and review course selection booklets.

The sixth grade team introduced our 2025 Cross-Curricular project this month- a mock trial! The kick off took place in TIPP where students learned about what a mock trial is, some of the roles in the trial, and the associated vocabulary terms. Each student will apply for a role within the trial during ELA classes and then begin preparing for trial!

In math, students are working on solving inequalities and just finished designing a miniature golf course to practice the skill. Sixth graders are wrapping up a unit on energy transfers in science this month and have finished their first novel of the year in ELA. They are in the process of writing an essay analyzing themes in *Maniac Magee*.