



LADSBS News...



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

Important February Dates:

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 10 Journey into Native American Territory Program, Grade 4
- 10-14 [Kindness Spirit Week](#), LADSBS
- 12 MPHS Athletes Helping Athletes Program, Grade 5
- 14 P.S. I Love You Day, & Valentine's Day
- 17-21 Mid-Winter Recess Schools Closed
- 26 Grade 4 Math Escape Room, 5:30 p.m. LADSBS
- 26 Board of Ed Meeting, 8:00 p.m., MPHS
- 28 [Harlem Wizards Game](#), 7:00 p.m.



We've had a fantastic start to the new year and are entering February with a strong focus on advancing students academically, socially, and emotionally. Academically, we expect significant growth between now and the end of the school year. Our students have already been introduced to much of the grade-level curriculum, and we are now building upon previously taught material.

Socially and emotionally, our character education programs are in full swing! Throughout February, we will focus on the character trait of *Integrity*. Students are learning the importance of integrity, and being honest, while upholding strong moral principles. We continue with our kindness theme on how kindness and respect play a crucial role in academic success. In classroom discussions, we emphasize the importance of respecting others' comments, opinions, and ideas. Additionally, our teachers have worked hard to create systems that foster a supportive, inclusive, and caring classroom environment.

As we wrapped up January, we introduced the Panther Page Challenge with a fun presentation by Dr. D'Aversa, Ms. Ely, and the infamous Miller Place Panther! The Panther Page Challenge will continue throughout February, with the winning grade receiving a special prize that they will vote on.

In celebration of kindness, we will observe Kindness Spirit Week here at LADSBS. Students are encouraged to dress according to our daily themes from February 10th-14th. Our Family Connect/Game Nights will also be announced soon, with opportunities for parents to sign up and participate. As you can see, we have an exciting winter ahead, filled with fun and engaging activities for your children to enjoy!

The second trimester will end in six weeks. Please reach out to your child's teacher with any concerns you may have. When we work together, everyone benefits!

With snowy weather upon us, please ensure we have your alternate afternoon plans in case we need to close school early. If your plans change on a particular day, kindly send a note with your child. Additionally, please note that morning and aftercare services will be closed if school is closed, delayed, or released early, and they will not be available during inclement weather closures.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Together, we can ensure a successful and enriching experience for every child.

HAVE A HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



Fifth Grade Flash . . .

Happy New Year! We were excited to welcome our fifth grade students back for the 2025 school year! We hope everyone enjoyed some extra time with family and loved ones. To begin the new year, the fifth grade classes talked about personal goals they could set for themselves and created resolutions to help them reach those goals.

Thank you to the MP Booster Club for supporting the upcoming Harlem Wizards game this month, where the Wizards will take on some of our very own Miller Place faculty on February 28th at MPHS! Students and staff participated in an exciting visit from the players last month, focusing on hoops, tricks, and lots of teamwork!



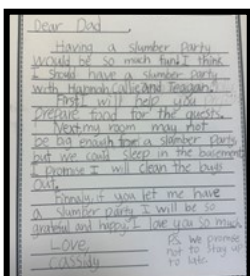
In Math, we continue to explore and build upon our love and knowledge of fractions! The fifth graders are excited to use our new Eureka math books to learn how to multiply and divide fractions, and begin to work with fraction division. In ELA, we completed our novel study on *Esperanza Rising*, which the students really enjoyed. Up next, we will be reading *Hatchet*! In the meantime, classes have returned to practicing their reading skills with a variety of texts using HMH Into Reading. In Science, the fifth grade is investigating Earth's Systems by developing and using system models to explore interactions among Earth's atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere, and hydrosphere. In Social Studies, we are discovering the early explorers and the Columbian Exchange.

This month we celebrated how kind our fifth graders are by creating a "blizzard of kindness" with snowflakes filled with acts of kindness written on it. Looking forward, we have Kindness Spirit Week beginning February 10th, ending with P.S. I Love You Day on February 14th where the students are invited to spread positive messages that make everyone feel special, loved, and reminded that they are never alone. As always, we appreciate your continued support in and outside of the classroom!

Third Grade Thoughts . . .

We're kicking off 2025 with a great start! Our third graders have been exploring Module 3 in Math. In this module students extend their learning of multiplication and division to units of 0,1,6,7,8, and 9. They applied conceptual understanding of using the commutative, distributive, and associative properties. Students will also multiply with two-digit multiples of 10 and solve one and two-step word problems involving the four operations. As always, we encourage students to continue practicing their multiplication facts at home.

In ELA, students were introduced to Module 3 titled, "Let Freedom Ring", which uses a variety of texts and media focusing on important U.S. documents and symbols. Students also focused on different reading skills including central ideas, media techniques, summarizing, retelling, and sequencing. This unit pairs up to our Social Studies unit of "U.S. Government", where we focus on the importance of our government, the branches, and how the United States of America was formed to what it is today. Also, students will be introduced to our new Science unit titled, "Invisible Forces". Students will discover how unbalanced forces affect motion of an object, magnetism, and static electricity. Students will also get to explore Rube Goldberg machines and how they function.



Last month in Mrs. Mock's third grade class, students worked on a persuasive writing piece. Students wrote letters to their family in efforts to persuade them to do something for them, such as buying a new pet, signing them up for a soccer team, or having a sleepover with a friend. Students learned how to address an envelope and letters are being sent to their families. We will wait and see if any of their letters persuaded their parents! As the school year continues, our third graders continue to work hard and we're so proud of them. Keep up the great work!

Fourth Grade Focus. . .

Happy February! This month is packed with exciting events, activities, and plenty of opportunities for learning. In February, all fourth grade teachers will be focusing on promoting kindness through various activities. We will begin by discussing the importance of kindness and ways we can show it. Throughout the month, we will encourage students to complete acts of kindness to demonstrate their thoughtfulness. We can't wait to see and hear all about the kind things our fourth graders will be doing! We will be celebrating P.S. I Love You Day on 2/14. Our Panther Page Challenge is underway. Which grade level will read the most pages? We will find out in March!

In math, we will continue exploring fractions and applying multi-step operations to solve problems. In ELA, we'll keep practicing different reading strategies while diving into new stories. In writing, we will be creating strong persuasive essays. In social studies, we will learn about Native Americans in the Northeast. In honor of Black History Month, we will be studying the inspirational people who have shaped our world today. On February 10th, we're excited for our in-school field trip where students will learn more about Native American culture, see artifacts, play traditional games, and create pottery!

Once again we would like to congratulate the students in fourth grade for winning our *Battle of the Grades Food Drive* competition! Last month, students enjoyed their "prize" with a cozy Friday afternoon movie and lesson. In connection with their science unit and recent field trip to the Miller Place Duck Pond, students watched the animated film, "Migration." All were encouraged to wear pajamas, comfy clothes, blankets, and enjoy their prize on the big screen in the gymnasium.



We're looking forward to a month full of kindness and engaging learning experiences! Just a reminder: there will be no school during our February break from 2/17-2/21. Stay happy, healthy, and kind!

Escape Night

On Wednesday, February 26th, from 5:30-7:00 p.m, the LADSBS School Improvement Team will be hosting an Escape Room for our *fourth grade students only*. This evening will begin with a building-wide scavenger hunt before students are given the opportunity to "escape" from the classroom they are assigned. Be on the lookout for registration information coming soon. You won't be able to "escape" the fun during this event—we hope to see you there!

Kindness Corner . . .

Last month, our fourth graders celebrated Peace and Kindness Day on January 17th by creating a web of kindness. Each student shared specific compliments about their classmates, noticing how all our kind words were connected. We then channeled our creativity into making motivational posters and videos, encouraging everyone to spread kindness today and every day. It was a wonderful day of positivity and connection!



Congratulations to our January
Kindness Coupon winners:

*Joseph Garziano, Cara Lotito, Piper Spinella,
Ellie Jacowski, Tucker Lafferty, Brandon Dawes*

Thank you all for keeping up the kindness!



Our Kindness initiatives will be continuing through the month of February! We will be celebrating with a [Kindness Spirit Week](#) beginning on Monday, February 10th, ending with our district wide participation in P.S. I Love You Day and Valentine's Day on Friday, February 14th. In recognition of P.S. I Love You, students will receive stickers in the shape of a ribbon to wear, showing support and encouragement to spread love to the world, others, and most importantly yourself.

Kindness Week

Monday, February 10th

“Kick Off Kindness” Wear your favorite team Jersey!

Tuesday, February 11th

“Peace-Love-Kindness” Wear Tie-Dye or Bright Colors

Wednesday, February 12th

“Unity Color Day” Wear your grade level's color:
Grade 3: Red **Grade 4: Blue** **Grade 5: White**

Thursday, February 13th

“Dreaming of Kindness” Wear your pajamas or comfy clothes!

Friday, February 14th

“P.S. I Love You & Valentine's Day”



Club Corner . . .

Our morning clubs are well underway! We have so many exciting club offerings this year, and students are having a wonderful time discovering new interests and hobbies. Check out some of the fun morning activities taking place here at LADSBS!



School Spirit . . .

We are excited to begin our NEW reading initiative, the Panther Page Challenge, to gear us up for March Book Madness! This year, students will work as a grade level to try to read the most pages.



To kick off our Panther Page Challenge, Dr. D'Aversa read two *Silly School Poems* and a story to each grade level during an introductory assembly. Third and fourth grade students enjoyed, *How to Catch A Snowman*, while our soon to be Middle School fifth graders listened to, *Oh, the Places You'll Go*. Each grade logged their page totals on the Google Form provided by their classroom teacher and Ms. Ely to begin the challenge. The students had a surprise visit from the infamous Miller Place Panther who cheered on our students to begin their reading journey.



In our Library Media Center, students continue to learn 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."

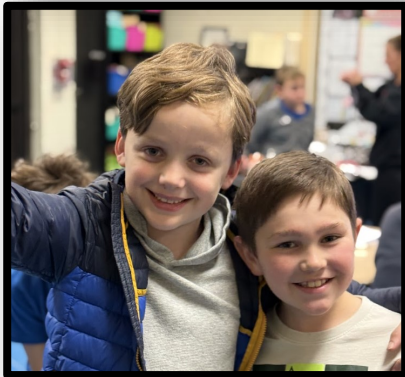
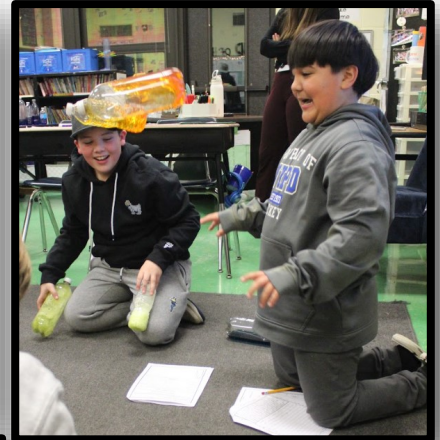
During library class, students have been encouraged to discuss what kindness is, how we can be kind to one another, and what kind of vision we have for our school. By writing their name on a piece of Duck Tape, our collective school banner is displayed in our Main Hallway, as a reminder to everyone that we need to stick together against bullying.





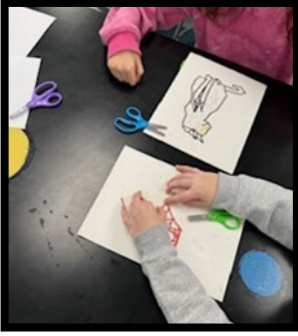
STEAM Night...

Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School STEAM night was held on January 13th and saw over 200 students participate in this evening event. Our young learners explored a variety of STEAM-related activities like Egg Drops, Catapults, Indi Cars, Doodlebots, Zip Lines, Ozobots, and more, all guided by our dedicated LADSBS faculty. The Expo Center featured amazing contributions from One River Art School, Mt. Sinai Nature Center, New York Marine Rescue, The Long Island Explorium, and our local public libraries. Miller Place organizations such as Robotics, Friends of the Arts and the PTA were also well-represented throughout the night. The evening fostered an inspiring environment for students to experience the exciting world of STEAM.



Also, special thanks to Mr. Evan Curran, Curriculum Specialist for Elementary Education, for organizing the event as well as all of the students and their families for joining us in sharing the magic and wonder of how Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics impact our everyday lives!

Art-I-Facts. . .



Starting new projects is so exciting! Third graders studied the bright, zany works of Austrian painter, Friedensreich Hundertwasser. They then learned how to draw skyscrapers using one-point perspective drawing techniques. Fourth graders are experimenting with values, tints and shades to paint pop-art disco balls inspired by Sari Shryack. Fifth graders are working on geometric animals in a constellation style painting lesson.



Music Musings . . .



We would like to thank the Miller Place High School Jazz Group and Cello Ensemble for visiting our fifth grade students for an in-school performance last month. Our LADSBS musicians were so inspired and look forward to continuing their musical journeys into high school!

Fifth Grade Chorus: Fine-Tuning Vocal Technique

Our Fifth Grade Chorus is diving deeper into the art of singing! This month, we're focusing on refining core vocal techniques that will elevate their performances. Key areas of focus include effective breathing to support strong, sustained notes, matching pitch with precision, and vowel formation to ensure clarity and resonance in every sound. Aligning as a group is crucial, and we're working on blending voices seamlessly to create a

beautifully unified performance.

Fifth Grade Orchestra: Mastering Polyphony

The Fifth Grade Orchestra has begun working on some of the most challenging aspects of our concert music: polyphony. This is when different instruments are playing different melodies at different times, creating a rich and complex musical texture. Mastering polyphony helps students develop advanced listening skills, as they need to stay aware of what their peers are playing while maintaining their own part.

Fourth Grade Orchestra: Developing Strong Technique and Confidence

This month, our Fourth Grade Orchestra is focusing on developing strong left-hand technique and smooth right-hand bowing. To boost confidence and performance skills, we've also introduced mini-concerts in class, where students have the opportunity to showcase their progress to an audience of their peers. It's a wonderful way to celebrate their hard work while building the stage presence and comfort they'll need for future performances!

General Music: The Musical Connection

In General Music this month, students are focusing on developing solid rhythmic foundations through hands-on practice with the glockenspiel and drumming. The glockenspiel helps students reinforce the connection between rhythm and melody, while drumming challenges them to build coordination, timing, and an awareness of different rhythmic patterns. As we work together, we are reminded that music is a universal language we all have in common.

Fourth & Fifth Grade Band

The band students here at LADSBS are having a great winter learning some more challenging songs. The Fourth Grade Band students are hard at work looking at different songs for their recitals later this year. They have been making a lot of growth learning new notes and rhythms. The Fifth Grade Band has been having a blast learning their spring concert pieces. We are working on a wide variety of songs including patriotic tunes, pop music, and band classics.

Board of Education

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

Don't Forget . . .

School will be closed :
February 17th—21st Mid-Winter Recess

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

Helpful Hints . . .

Kindergarten Registration:

Children who will be five years old on or before December 1st, 2025 are eligible to enter Kindergarten in September 2025. Registration will be held at **District Office** from March 3rd through March 21st ***by appointment only!*** To schedule an appointment, please visit the District Information—Registration section of the district website to register through the [appointment link](#). Please be sure to bring all the requested documentation and completed forms to your appointment. If you know of a neighbor or friend residing in the Miller Place School District who has a child who is eligible for kindergarten in the fall, please share this information and feel free to contact either District Office or AMPS with any questions.

Before & After Care Program: Did you know that SCOPE Educational Services offers before and after school programs at both AMPS and LADSBS? For more information, you can visit their website at www.scopeonline.com.



“The sum of us is greater
than all our parts.”
Maya Angelou

