

Long Beach Island Consolidated School District

“Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report, February 2025



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we look forward to the third marking period, staff and students are excited to take part in many innovative learning experiences to promote student achievement. Students are excited to build, create and collaborate with their classmates on projects and special assignments. Staff members are taking time during morning meetings and lessons to reinforce classroom expectations and character traits. Both schools are continually working with students to be respectful, responsible, safe, and kind.

Many students and staff have been taking part in After School Academy, and Homework Club which have been taking place at the EJ and LBI Grade Schools.

Our food drive to benefit St. Francis Food Pantry runs from February 3-14. Nonperishable food items can be dropped off at both schools (no glass please). The EJ School also collected soup for their “Tackle Hunger - Souper Bowl Collection.” Soup towers were constructed to predict the Super Bowl winner. The Eagles were predicted to win!

The PTA Enrichment Program is up and running. Students are able to participate in a number of after-school programs taught by members of the community and staff. Thank you to the PTA for bringing this program back for our students!

Special thanks to the PTA for scheduling and providing our upcoming assemblies, Brainwash Assembly and Family Gameshow Night on February 13th at 6:30 PM and Magic Science on March 12th. The PTA will hold its annual auction on March 22nd from 4-7 p.m. at the Farm on Main. Ticket information is available on the website.

The next Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting is scheduled for March 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. Through an active PTA, school district special events will enhance the curriculum. 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.

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! We are looking forward to the many learning activities planned. Please make sure to sign up to become a member of the PTA. Special thanks to our PTA for all of their hard work!



Our sixth grade students have been investigating Earth's systems and their interactions and changes. Through developing three-dimensional models, authentic scientific data, and classroom investigations of concepts such as ice-albedo feedback and Earth's energy budget, students used their models to explain how the systems interact and affect other systems when the environment changes.

Students also have been exploring interactive science lessons using a STEM focused program, "Data to the Rescue" in collaboration with Rutgers University. The lessons centered on the long term research of penguin populations in the Western Antarctic peninsula. Students have been learning about this ecosystem by analyzing and interpreting long-term population and habitat data through the use of digital graphing tools.

Recently, our students also have been involved in interactive read aloud activities with several guest readers using informational text. Throughout the readings, students created collaborative timelines about scientific research in Antarctica.

In early February, these students participated in a Video Teleconference with scientists in Antarctica. Prior to the teleconference, students spent time developing scientific questions and then had an opportunity to ask their questions directly to scientists during a live call. Our students were fortunate to learn about how scientists conduct experiments in a remote environment and gain knowledge about scientific research questions currently being investigated. Pictures below show our students interacting with a scientist at Palmer Research Station on the Western Antarctic Peninsula.

Our fifth grade students have been investigating natural resources and human impact. Students researched renewable and non renewable energy sources with several informational texts and designed and created "green cities" to demonstrate their knowledge of sustainability and green energy sources.

Our Kindness Club is a PTA Enrichment class which includes several students in grades 3-6. These students have been busy creating school-wide activities for others centered on kindness. Activities include kindness letters for Random Acts of Kindness week, designing posters, and sorting and organizing the food collection for St. Francis.



6th grade science students participate in a live VTC with researchers at Palmer Station in Antarctica

Music with Mr. Cotov



Our EJ students just finished four excellent songs for Groundhog's Day. We learned to spell the twelve-letter word "PUNXSUTAWNEY" with our songs. We will continue to sing of the early Presidents, as well as Valentine's Day. We use percussion instruments in class and are learning to read musical notation.

At LBI, we are just as busy. Violins, Cellos, and Basses have recently perfected the two-octave G Major scale. Ukuleles strum the modern hit "Lost Boy" along with our chorus. 5th & 6th Band has excellent participation and a full instrumentation. Our after-school Enrichment Program is so successful as well. We are offering Piano, Guitar, Ukulele, and all wind instruments in small group sessions each week.

HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The LBI Health Office is offering a weekly gentle yoga class for staff. Staff can also participate in a 4 week health/fitness tracker through Atlanticare; participants (minimum of 10) keep track of daily activities, fruits & vegs, and water.

At the end of the 4 weeks, the logs are submitted and we will receive a \$50 gift card, which allows us to purchase most needed items for our local (St. Francis) food pantry, as we have done in previous years to "pay it forward."

As we continue into February with the techniques and tactics of volleyball, next up, for grades 3-6, is floor/street hockey. PEP for 3rd marking period is grade 6 volleyball.

PREK FEBRUARY 2025

PreK3 has been busy working with the letters I and J. We made an ice cream cone, an igloo, and a jellyfish. We painted winter hats and mittens, and for Math we are working on a 2025 Counting book.

We joined PK4 for a fun gym class with Mr. LaMarco and made some new friends. We learned how to take care of our teeth when we joined PK4 for a lesson on dental health by a guest teacher. 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 running, hopping and walking on tiptoes. We practice catching and kicking with the basketballs. We learned to play Duck, Duck, Goose and Follow the Leader. We have started working on decorating paper hot air balloons for the hall showcase by the office.

Kindergarten Crew January Happenings

February may be the shortest month of the year, but in kindergarten we pack a lot in!!!

In word work we are continuing to learn letter names and corresponding sounds. As we learn to write sentences, forming words is a great benefit. In reading, we have started small reading groups which gives the kids an opportunity to practice the various skills at their individual developmental level. While the groups are reading with their teachers, the others are improving their ability to work independently on fun literacy centers.

In math, we continue to explore addition, subtraction as well as celebrating the 100th day of school that we have been counting towards since day 1!! Parents were invited to join in by participating in many 100 themed activities!! What great fun!! In social studies, we read books, created crafts, and discussed Valentine's Day, Groundhogs Day, President's Day, and Dental Health!

The fun learning never stops in Kindergarten!!

First Grade

As we approach the midway point in February, we also enter into the third marking period and in 1st grade, we are moving right along! The students have been working extremely hard on expanding their skills in Phonics. So far, we have covered a wide variety of consonant blends, digraphs, and glued sounds (words ending in -ng and -nk). We just introduced Magic E, who has the power to make the vowel before it says its name, creating the long vowel sound! We will then be introducing the ending digraph -ck... We have seen it and read it in many words, but we will soon understand WHY and HOW to use it. In Science, we are starting a new unit on plants and animals. We have learned how plants and animals are alike and different. We have also learned to recognize plants and animals that are real and those that are not real. Following this new topic, we will learn about the many parts that plants and animals possess and how these parts work. We will complete a variety of experiments that demonstrate how plant and animal parts help them to survive. For Social Studies this month, we will begin a unit on Families Long Ago and Today. Here are some of the important things we will learn about:

- Using pictures, books and artifacts to learn about long ago
- Life long ago compared to life today
- Diverse communities

- Our families and how they are alike and different
- Cultural traditions

For our 100th day, we will create “When I’m 100 years old...” writing projects that are going to be displayed in the EJ hallways. Along with their writing, the kids will be aged 100 years in portraits that will be displayed there as well! This project has been a big hit with the rest of the students and we love hearing everyone’s reactions. As we look to begin our 3rd marking period, the students have continued to be engaged in our daily lessons and are looking forward to the remainder of the school year.

SECOND GRADE

After a successful 2nd marking period, our second graders are ready to hit the ground running into the third marking period. We have been busy working in weekly literacy centers where we continue to practice and improve reading, grammar, and spelling skills. In ELA students will begin a unit studying Poetry. Students will work to identify rhyme schemes and alliteration. Displayed in the EJ hallway in the coming weeks you will find examples of alliteration created by our second graders. Our students will use the first letter of their names to create a silly example of alliteration. In preparation for President's Day, second graders have learned about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Students will be working on an "If I Were President" writing activity. These writing assignments will be on display in the EJ school for you to enjoy.

In Math, we are working on Topic 8 Time and Money. We are working with identifying coins, organizing money from its greatest to least greatest value as well as adding to find the monetary value. We will also practice telling time. Students will learn to tell time to the nearest hour, half hour, quarter to and past. Students will participate in many center activities to practice these two important life skills.

In Social Studies, second graders are completing Unit 1 on Families and moving to Unit 2- People, Places and Nature. We will be learning map skills to identify our cardinal directions to read a map. We will discuss Earth's various landforms and natural resources. Finally, in Science this month second grade will begin Unit 2 all about Living Things. Second Grade will study plants and animals to discover what is needed for their survival.

Coming up next month second graders are looking forward to our upcoming celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday and Read Across America Week.

THIRD GRADE

Third graders are moving right along in Math! They are now practicing area and perimeter. In ELA, students have been finishing up their opinion essays on space travel. They also study how text features can help when reading informational texts and how folktales teach life lessons. In Science, they are finishing up their unit study on magnets and are excited to move on to weather and climate.

Fourth Grade

There is so much to love about being in Fourth Grade this month! We are continuing to locate and learn about the 50 US states and capitals and are working in our book to read about each region in more detail. In Math, we are continuing our study of fractions by adding, subtracting, and working with Mixed Numbers. Our latest Reading story fits right in with our Black History studies for some powerful cross-curricular comprehending. In Science, we are discussing energy, completing hands-on experiments, and learning new information. In Technology Lab, we are starting a new project using our Google Slides skills. We are also learning a bit about football and the history of the Super Bowl. It has been a busy few weeks, and we look forward to expanding our knowledge in many areas throughout the winter months.

Fifth Grade

The fifth graders are half way to 6th grade! We are reading the award winning *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. Students love this story of the small country of Denmark that stood up to the Nazis and saved almost all of their Jewish citizens. In Social Studies they are "traveling" to the 13 colonies. We are celebrating kindness by writing cards to our classmates. We are having a sweet February!

Sixth Grade

The 6th grade students are officially in the second half of their final year at LBI! The students have been assigned roles in our Mock Trial and have continued making preparations in TIPP classes this month. One class will be prosecuting the Big Bad Wolf while the other defends him. There has been much enthusiasm surrounding the trial and students are excited to immerse themselves in their roles.

ELA classes have had a nonfiction focus this month where students spent time reading articles about World War 2 in order to build background for our unit on refugees and the next novel. The 6th graders also recently used their newfound knowledge of inequalities to design a miniature golf course in math.