

# *Long Beach Island Consolidated School District*

## “Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report, March 2025



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Special thanks to Shelley Smith and the LBI PTA Scholarship Committee. On Friday, March 14 at Southern Regional's Donor Recognition Breakfast, the LBI PTA received special recognition as being one of the founding organizations to participate in the Local Scholarship Program, which began 38 years ago. The agenda included an outstanding performance from the SR Honors Select Choir featuring two of our LBI graduates: seniors Belle Placa & Owen DiNapoli. One of the Scholarship Program Alumni, who gave a wonderful speech, was LBI's Hannah Skimmons. Hannah is now a pediatric nurse in the intensive care unit at CHOP. Superintendent Craig Henry announced that at this point, the current donations for the upcoming Scholarship Awards Night is just \$11,000 short of **one million dollars**! This year's four LBI PTA scholarship recipients will be announced at the SRHS Awards Night on May 21st.

I can't believe we are halfway through the third marking period. A special thanks to all of our staff members for a job well done! As Mr. Birney and I mentioned to staff, it was a busy month with Read Across America, Spirit Week, Parent Luncheon Visitations, PTA Dance, and many after-school enrichment activities.

We are looking forward to the “One District, Two Books” program which supports reading together at home, and learning together at school by providing schools with necessary tools, resources, and guidance to create a culture of literacy. The program begins with two books written by Elise Broach. *Masterpiece* is being sent home with the 3rd-6th grade students, and *Trouble at School for Marvin and James* for Pre-K-2nd grade students. Students will read the book with their families and discuss some of the funny and often relatable situations throughout the story. Once the students have completed the book at home they will return to school and have a day of extension activities focused on team-building.

Southern Athletes will give a presentation to 6th grade students at the STAC on March 27. Beach Haven, LBI, Stafford, and Waretown 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will join this presentation which will be the first gathering of Southern Regional’s Class of 2031. Our sixth grade students are looking forward to the assembly presentation called Sportsmanship Day. Sixth grade students will wear black and gold. Thank you to the PTA for purchasing shirts for our 6th grade students. It should be a great time!

Our garden programs have continued throughout the school year. The gardens at both EJ and LBI have provided outdoor instructional areas for students to harvest vegetables in the fall and plant in the spring. Many of the spring plantings were started in our indoor gardens. Students were able to plant lettuce and other vegetables inside and will soon begin to transplant them to the outside gardens.

As we near April, we are looking forward to the expanded STEAM club activities and evening event, rehearsals for the EJ play “The Great Outdoors,” and at LBI, “The Final Countdown” spring concert. Additionally, Spring Recess is April 21-25. Make sure to take some time to recharge for the final stretch of an amazing school year! The success of this school year has been due to the cooperation of all those in our school community. With this, enjoy the upcoming warmer weather days outside with family and friends.

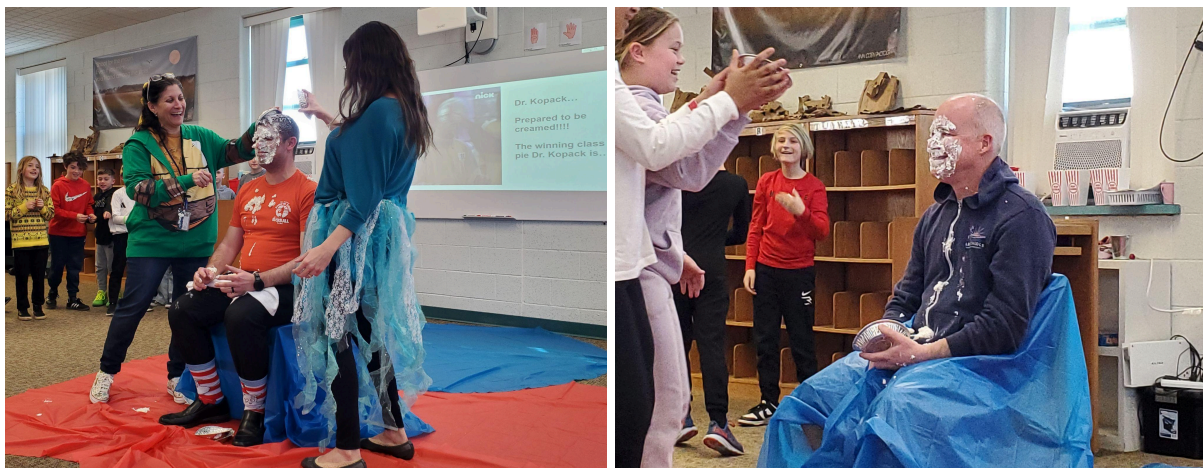
Please make sure to check the district website or Google calendar for upcoming events. Again, many thanks for all you do!

Warmest regards,

Dr. Peter Kopack



LBI Grade School Student-Led Door Decorations for Read Across America



The winning classes for Read Across America were able to pie Dr. Kopack and Mr. Brady!





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, especially at the PTA meetings...many thanks to all for a job well done!

The PTA Auction is March 22nd at the Farm on Main. The Brainwash assembly was awesome, and the students had such a great time at the Red Carpet Dance!



Lego Print Making with Ms. Power; Yoga with Ms. Parker and Ms. Hagler; and  
Learn to Skate with Dr. Kopack;



Movin' and groovin' at the Red Carpet Dance Party!



The students had a blast at the Magic of Science assembly.



Our sixth grade students have been investigating plate tectonics through reading informational text and conducting several hands-on activities along with computer simulations and models. Students have been figuring out the structure of the Earth and causes and effects of movement within the Earth. Students also have been explaining and describing how Earth's surface changes over time. Through interactives, text, and models, students also described the theory of plate tectonics and supported explanations with evidence to support this theory.

Our fifth grade students have been investigating solar system objects through hands-on activities along with 3D and 2D models. We began the unit by investigating star brightness using models with components representing Earth and stars. Students were tasked with figuring out the factors that affect star brightness. They manipulated the model to test variables to explain the effect that distance and size has on star brightness. Students also investigated the scale size of the solar system distances between planets by creating a paper model as well as a walking model to demonstrate these differences.



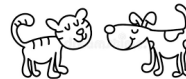
A group of 18 students are participating in our afterschool STEAM Club and are preparing for the upcoming **STEAM Night** in April. Activities are centered around science and engineering concepts and are integrated with math, technology, and art as well.

### **Kindness Club**

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:

1. Student made posters with kindness messages for EJ and LBI
2. Student decorations for Valentine's Day
3. Thank you notes offered for students to write for others throughout the school
4. Student designed and implemented "Kindness Friend Note Exchange" during Random Acts of Kindness Week (paper, pens, stickers, and note cards provided for students)
5. Kindness Bracelets made for students
6. Kindness Kits created for randomly chosen students (2 from each homeroom)
7. Shout Outs on morning announcements by students for students and teachers
8. Thank you notes for local police departments

## **PREK MARCH 2025**



This month, we are learning all about Pets. Every Friday in March, there will be Show and Tell. They can bring in stuffed animals or toys of pets and email or bring in pictures of their pets. We will be discovering all different types of pets and how we can care for them. Pets can be really small and really big! We talked about what pets we have at home and what pets we would like to have.

In our dramatic play, it will be a PetSmart. The students will be able to adopt an animal of their choice. The students will also learn how to be a veterinarian and groomer. In the veterinarian section, they will have a doctor kit to take care of all of the animals. In the grooming section, there will be shampoo, blow dryer, and combs to make the animals look nice.

For our literacy lessons, we are learning different word families with words that are 3 letters. We will learn about the -at, -ap, -an, -op, -ot, and -og families this month. We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss and Read Across America by checking out these word families in his books! In math, we are learning how to count by 10's all the way to 100!

## **Kindergarten Crew March Happenings**

March is blowing in like a lion in Kindergarten! Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America provide a great reason to read a variety of Dr. Seuss books and participate in a school wide Seussical program! It's a wacky way to start the month! Our Kinder Crew are becoming expert mathematicians by counting and comparing double digit numbers and adding numbers using two ten frames. We have been practicing letter skills, word building, sight word recognition and sentence writing. We are becoming awesome Kindergarten readers and writers! Kindergarten Morning Bins are one of our favorite times of the day to practice our skills, work collaboratively and use our creativity! As the month heads out like a lamb we will welcome Spring by creating beautiful crafts and heading back out to our EJ garden for Farming Fridays. What an exciting month of learning in Kindergarten!

# First Grade

At this point in the school year, the students are really digging deep into their knowledge and understanding of letters and words. All of our lessons and strategies are coming together and the kids are really blossoming into amazing readers and writers. Over the past couple of weeks, we were introduced to various vowel teams (two vowels that stick together to make a long vowel sound). These vowels can be a bit tricky at times, but as long as we put our best foot forward, the kids will do great!

In math, we have been working on double digit addition and subtraction (with and without regrouping). We practiced how to use a 120s chart, tens and ones cubes, and even mental math to solve these complex problems. Our upcoming lessons will be focused on direct and indirect measurement, as well as time. Time can be a bit tricky for our first grade friends, but do not fret... we have a lot of different activities to help make these lessons engaging and fun.

Weather exploration is where we are in Science. We will be doing some exciting hands-on activities throughout the month. We are learning about how weather forms, different types of precipitation, and how meteorologists actually forecast the weather.

In Social Studies, we are going to look into what an economy is. Such a big word for first graders. We are going to understand what it means to work. The differences in needs and wants, goods and services, and supply and demand. This is always fun because the children will finally begin to understand how money works in today's world! Students will get a better grasp on the choices that people have when spending and saving their money. It is going to be really neat learning about all of these choices. Spring is almost here, and we are hopping right along.

## SECOND GRADE

The students in second grade kicked off the month of March in a fun way! To celebrate Read Across America, second graders took part in a school-wide Dr. Seuss Celebration. They enjoyed Seuss- themed center activities, along with a planting activity. Second graders continue to work diligently throughout each subject area too.

In Math, they have been learning how to fluently subtract within 20. Now, students are learning how to use various strategies for subtracting two-digit numbers. In ELA, students have been reading informational texts. They have learned about an author's purpose for writing. In addition, students are working on their own "How To" writing piece, where they explain a step-by-step process on how to make or do something. Check out their published directions on display outside the second grade classrooms. You might learn a thing or two!

In Social Studies, second graders are learning about maps, and practicing using map skills to locate places. Next, they will study Earth's landforms and bodies of water. Students will be introduced to the names and locations of our world's continents and oceans.

Lastly, in Science, second graders have been learning about living things, their basic needs and how they depend on each other in an ecosystem. Students are currently studying plants. They will observe these plants as they grow and will determine if their basic needs are met. As spring approaches, second grade students look forward to learning opportunities in the EJ Garden.



# THIRD GRADE

(Written by Third Grade Students)

Something that happened in Third Grade was the door decorating contest, and third grade was on fire! Both classes were ocean-themed. Also, Third Grade is spearheading One District Two Books. We made posters. Third graders did the morning announcements to tease and then introduce the book, and we did amazing. Everyone is doing fractions in 3rd grade, and it is very math-related. Also, it is really interesting. The third graders learned about Holi and had some Holi fun with one of our moms. Holi is a festival when family and friends get together and throw colored powder at each other. Some other things we are doing are writing expository essays and opinion essays.

In science class, we are learning about different climates with postcards from Grandma, but not your grandma. Both classes are learning about the Mojave desert. Animals like the chuckwalla, scorpion, and jackrabbit live in the Mojave and have adapted in different ways. We have also been reading the book called Clementine, and it is super funny. It's about a girl named Clementine who calls her brother vegetable names like broccoli. That's right, VEGETABLE NAMES!

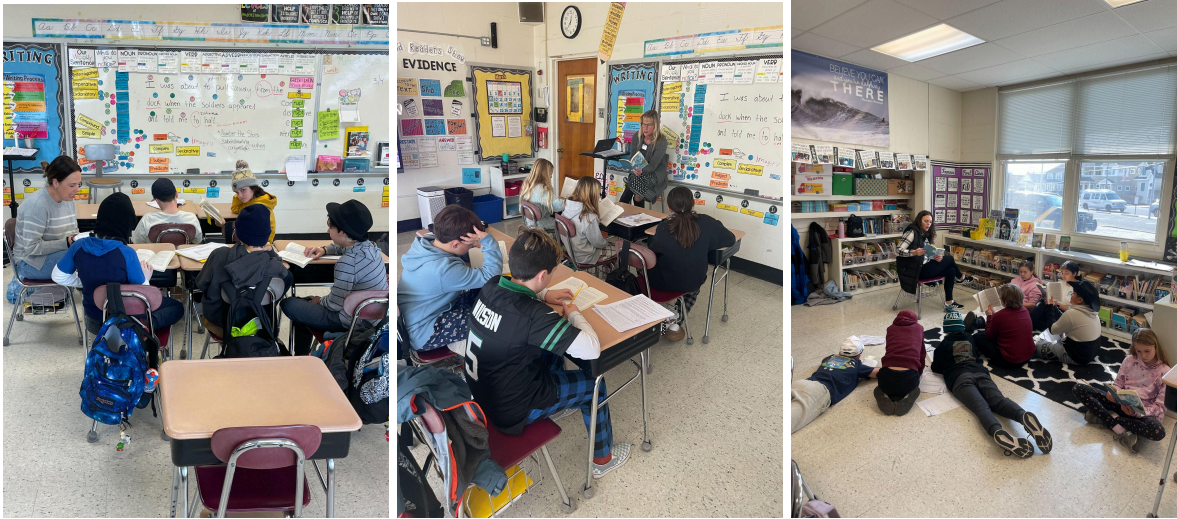
## Fourth Grade

Our lucky 4th graders are experiencing so many fun and exciting activities during the month of March! In Social Studies, we are continuing to learn and practice our States and Capitals, discussing what makes our country great, and presenting our State Projects during Technology class. We are integrating writing and technology as we create Diamante poems, which will be on display in our hallway soon. We are getting ready to enter the Ocean County Government Poster Contest - and will announce our class winners in our Happenings next month!

Math class is quite busy right now, as we are learning how to work with decimals and preparing to start our chapter on Measuring. Our Science topic this month is circuits, so we are learning how to properly use batteries and wires to create light. We are enjoying the brief touch of warmer weather and looking forward to a fantastic spring!

## Fifth Grade

The 5th graders cannot believe it is March already. Now we are ready for some warmer weather. In ELA we are writing informative ebooks on the Rescue in Denmark. In Social Studies we are finishing the thirteen colonies. We will be diving into the causes of the Revolutionary War soon! We had a wonderful Read Across America week. We had wonderful guest readers come in, and we loved DEAR time every day. Mrs. Townsend's class won the door decorating contest- way to go 5T!!



Special thanks to our parent guest readers!

## Sixth Grade

We are more than halfway through the third marking period and our sixth grade students have been working hard. In ELA, the students have been learning about the refugee experience through nonfiction and poetry. They have been "cracking the code" of poetry by analyzing stanzas for figurative language, symbolism, repetition, and discussing their different interpretations as a class.

In Science, the sixth graders are investigating plate tectonics, the layers of the earth, and the results of shifts in the earth's plates. In Math, the students just finished up their ratios and rates unit and are just beginning to learn about percentages and how to solve percent problems in the real world!

## GARDEN NEWS

The EJ and LBI Gardens are warming up to the 2025 Spring growing season. KidsCare started 4 dozen red and green lettuce seedlings and the garden is prepped for Grade 1 snap peas and other cold weather veggies. Our first sign of Spring came with the garden's red emperor tulips trying their best to "spring" into their ruby red beauty. Our tulips are featured on the Journey North map found [here](#). Thank you Ms. Maria and Mr. Keith for saving milk cartons to "upcycle" for our lettuce as each grows from a seedling to hardy transplant.







Thank you Ms. Maria and Mr. Keith for saving milk cartons to "upcycle" for our lettuce.

At LBI, the LEAP students have been working with Ms. Rothstein on some long term projects, one of them involving the hydroponic garden. The students have been in charge of planting, growing, and maintaining the hydroponic garden. Every week, they check the progress, adding more water and nutrients if needed. Eventually, the students will harvest the greens and as a group will brainstorm how to get the school involved in some taste testing.



LBI School Hydroponic Garden