April 2025

LONDONDERRY LINK

Serving the Londonderry Community for 70 Years

Issue #5

Celebrating 70 Years

A surprise birthday celebration

On March 31, 1955, Londonderry Elementary School was dedicated and officially opened to the community. To celebrate our 70 years as a school, Londonderry held a surprise birthday celebration for the students on March 28, 2025.

Students arrived to a surprise assembly on Friday afternoon to a cafeteria transformed for a celebration! The surprise party included:

- Introducing our special guests and former Londonderry staff members
- Sharing a history lesson about Londonderry
- Hearing reflections from Tim Bartholomew
- Singing "Happy Birthday"
- Eating delicious cupcakes
- Enjoying a special performance by the Blackboard Brothers

The celebration closed with everyone joining together to sing our school song, "Londonderry Proud," which was particularly special as its composer, Mr. Neidinger, was on stage with Mr. Dobson to lead us.

A huge thank you to Sam's Club on Grayson Road, who donated 350 blue and white cupcakes for the students and staff to enjoy, and to LDSD Board Member Mr. Robert Hill for attending the celebration.



Former Londonderry principals, Mr. Poppy and Mr. Allwine, blow out the candles at Londonderry's Birthday Celebration.



Former and current staff members at Londonderry Elementary School gather for a family photo following the 70th Birthday Celebration on March 28th!

Principal's Corner

Updates from Around Londonderry

Last month I said spring was in the air. Apparently, Mother Nature was not listening! As we move from March into April, we watch the temperatures change and activities at school increase.

March was a busy month at Londonderry. The first week of March, we celebrated Read Across America Week and welcomed in our newest Falcons with Kindergarten registration for the 2025-26 school year. On March 14th, we celebrated students' accomplishments throughout the second trimester with our Trimester 2 Recognition Assembly. Later that night, we hosted PTO Family Bingo with our bingo caller emeritus, Mrs. Trautman.

We also had the opportunity to meet with many of you during Parent-Teacher Conferences. A lot of great conversations were held and we celebrated a lot of growth. I encourage everyone to continue those conversations with your child's teachers as finish out the school year. We closed the month by celebrating 70 years of Londonderry with a surprise birthday party. Our community celebration of this milestone is scheduled to be held during the May Fair.

As we move into April, a number of events are arising on our calendar. April is Autism Acceptance Month. As the home to our district's Autism Support program, we are honored to celebrate our amazing students who are a part of this program. We also have our PTO Book Fair to start the month and PSSAs coming up at the end of the month.

I hope you all have a terrific start to Spring and a brilliant month ahead!

Dr. Wastler

Grade Level Updates

What's going on in our classrooms?

Londonderry teachers provide a window into the classroom, sharing highlights from the month, as well as upcoming events.

Pages 2-4

Trimester 2 Ceremony

Growth is worth celebrating!

Learn how we celebrated the accomplishments of the students' hard work during Trimester 2.

Page 2

Autism Acceptance Day

Celebrating our similarities!

April is Autism Acceptance Month. Londonderry is participating with activities and programs celebrating the students of our ASC program.

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Mrs. Bastian & Mrs. Schmidt

Second Grade

Growing and learning together

Second-grade students have successfully learned six of the seven syllable types in reading. Mastery of these syllable types supports students in both decoding (reading) and encoding (writing) words. In addition to this foundational work, we are focusing on developing students' comprehension skills by encouraging them to create mental images as they read. This helps deepen their understanding of the text and supports their ability to make connections across different parts of the material. As the texts become longer and more complex, we are also emphasizing strategies such as slowing down and rereading to help students navigate and comprehend more challenging content. In math, students have been learning to add three-digit numbers using four different strategies. It has been exciting to observe their growth as they build proficiency and identify the methods that work best for their individual learning styles.

Information about two upcoming second-grade field trips will be shared with families soon. One exciting event is a district-wide STEM Day, where second graders from across the district will come together to participate in hands-on learning stations focused on science, technology, engineering, and math. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their STEM skills and collaborate with peers. Please note that this event is not open to parent chaperones. In addition, we have a field trip scheduled for **June 3rd** to **Paulus Farm Market in Mechanicsburg**. More details about this trip, including permission forms and chaperone information, will be provided in the coming weeks.

UPCOMING DATES:

- District STEM Day (May 19th)
- Field Trip to Paulus Farms (June 3rd)

Second Grade Science!









A collection of students who received awards at the Trimester 2 Recognition Ceremony. The above students were recognized for the character trait of "Discipline."

Trimester 2 Recognition Ceremony

Celebrating Student Achievements

In March, we held our Trimester 2 Recognition Ceremony. The ceremony was an opportunity to recognize students for their hard work during Trimester 2. Golden awards were presented by specials teachers to classes at each grade level to recognize appropriate behaviors in the classroom. Our paraprofessionals and aides recognized classes for good citizenship at recess and in the cafeteria.

Each classroom also recognized students with PRIDE Awards. These awards recognize students for demonstrating positive character traits. For Trimester 2, we recognized students for demonstrating "Integrity" and "Discipline." Lastly, Dr. Wastler presented awards to the grade levels with the best attendance and fewest behavior interventions throughout the trimester. Congratulations to all of the students recognized at the assembly – they are all wonderful examples of Londonderry Leaders!

Mrs. Kratz & Mrs. Weary

Third Grade

Ready for Their Writing Debut

3rd grade has begun reviewing for PSSA testing after we return from Spring Break at the end of the month. This will be the first year these students are taking the ELA and Math PSSA tests.

Also, each 3rd grade classroom is publishing a book! The topic of both books is "When I Grow Up" and students have been working diligently to plan, edit, revise, and compose a final copy as well as illustrate a picture for their writing.

We are very proud of our hard work and can't wait for our final copies to arrive before the end of the school year!

UPCOMING DATES:

- High school guest readers visit our classrooms (April 9th)
- Order forms due for our published classroom book (April 11th)

Mrs. Ramirez & Mrs. Waters

Fifth Grade

Hummingbird Kits

Fifth Grade is hard at work on our robotics projects using Hummingbird Robotics kits! Families are invited to a Hummingbird Expo on June 3 from 10:15-11:50AM.

Mrs. Haver & Mrs. Wise

Kindergarten

Celebrating our growth



Kindergarten enjoys time on the playground in the sun!

March was a busy month for kindergarten! We have been learning all about Native American tribes and customs in CKLA, but also blending and segmenting words like crazy to begin reading books!

In math, we have been diligently working on teen numbers and making groups of ten.

We have enjoyed soaking up the sun at recess and spreading color and cheer through our artwork and writing in the hallway.

Highlights of our month include Londonderry's 70th birthday bash and our mystery reader reveal during Read Across America week.

In April, we are looking forward to starting Junior Achievement and having fun on our field trip!

UPCOMING DATES:

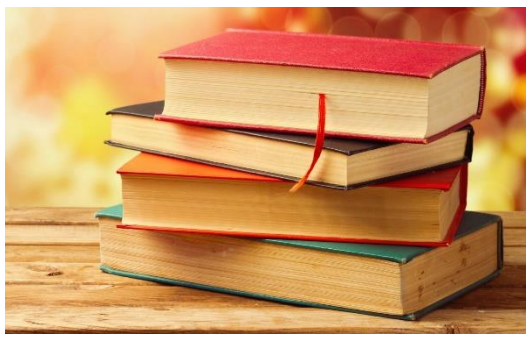
- Field Trip to Hershey Children's Museum (April 11th)

Mrs. Gilbert & Ms. Mosner

Reading Center

Spring Event

This year our Title I Spring Event is going to be out of this world thanks to a donation from the Falcon Foundation. Our Title I students and their families will have the opportunity to explore the Milky Way, learn about Greek constellations and phases of the sun and the moon in a SkyDome Planetarium at Nye Elementary on Wednesday, April 30th from 5-7pm.





First Grade students learn all about light during their science lesson.



Mr. Shappell and Dominick celebrate Autism Acceptance Day with our Kindergarten students.

Mrs. Eberhard & Mrs. Gallick

First Grade

Learning about World Cultures

First Grade will be learning about some of the culture of Italy this month. We are excited for you to come take a self-guided hallway tour of our learning experiences the night of May 14th at 5:30 p.m. We will be starting our Science unit about Plants this month. The students are looking forward to doing some of their own "planting" soon. We will be learning about taking care of our Earth for Earth Day.

We will be doing some extended practice of graphs and charts. We will be introducing the fractions of ½, ⅓, and ¼. We will continue to practice long vowel sounds using vowel teams and vowel-silent e. We will have a Junior Achievement representative here for five sessions to teach us about "wants and needs" and "goods and services".

Miss Parrish & Mr. McCoach

Autistic Support

Celebrating Autism Acceptance Month

At Londonderry, we celebrated World Autism Day on April 2, 2025. Students did activities to learn more about Autism and how we all learn differently with their grade level.

We will continue to celebrate our students with Autism throughout the month of April!

You can learn more at:
https://www.un.org/en/observances/autism-day

Mrs. Breeden

Library

Students in Kindergarten to 2nd grade enjoyed the presentation by the district author, Brian Biggs. We read many of his books prior to his visit. 3rd grade students are learning more about finding books, 4th grade students have selected a person to learn about for their Wax Museum project and 5th grade students are working on research.

Mrs. Brown

Art

In art, we have been working hard to finish up projects for the art show. This year, the Londonderry Art Show will be held on Wednesday, April 9th from 6-7:30pm, which is a date change from what is on the district calendar.

Mrs. Gearhart

School Counseling

In March, we registered almost 30 new students for kindergarten next year. If you have a child who is eligible for kindergarten and have not completed the registration process, please reach out to the school office as soon as possible. Our 4th and 5th grade Helping Hands are celebrating Earth Day this month. Please check out the posters hanging around the school encouraging Earth Day activities.

Mr. Cummins

PE

Students in all levels have been working on their soccer skills. Many have shared how they are playing this spring which is great to hear. The Kids Heart Challenge wrapped up and all students should have received their thank you gifts. The kids did an amazing job!

PTO Corner

Supporting each and every student

Thank you to everyone who ordered Marianna's Subs. Spring Plant Sale is going on until April 23. We are gearing up for May Fair Saturday May 3 from 10am to 1pm. We will be looking for donations for raffle baskets and anyone who can help run games during the event. All of these fundraisers allow us to pay for the transportation for class field trips and help pay for costs associated with the field trips. Thank you for all your continued support.

Upcoming events for the PTO include:

- Spring Plant Sale Orders Due (April 23rd)
- Muffins with Mom (8:00AM - May 2nd)
- May Fair (10:00AM to 1:00PM - May 3rd)

Our meeting for April is scheduled for Monday, May 5th. We hope you consider joining us as we continue planning and supporting spring events for the students!

School Calendar

April 2025

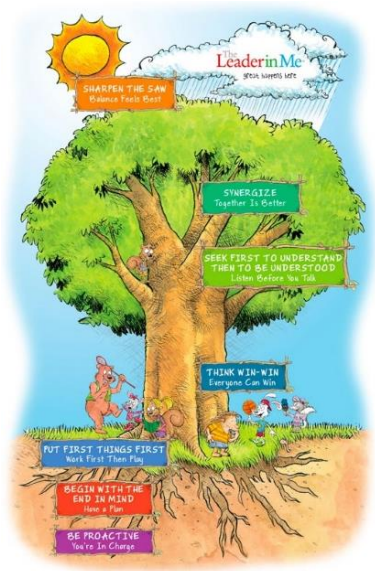
Date	Cycle Day	Activities
4/1	6	-----
4/2	1	Autism Acceptance Day
4/3	2	-----
4/4	3	-----
4/7	4	Book Fair
4/8	5	Book Fair
4/9	6	Book Fair Little Readers Club **Family Night @Book Fair (5:30 – 7:00)** **Art Show (6:00 – 7:30)**
4/10	1	Book Fair Falcon Families (PM)
4/11	2	Book Fair Kinder. Field Trip
4/14	3	Autism Acceptance Program (AM) LDSD Board Meeting (7:00PM – DAC)
4/15	4	-----
4/16	---	SCHOOL CLOSED
4/17	---	SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED
4/18	---	SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED
4/21	---	SCHOOL CLOSED
4/22	5	PSSA: ELA (3-5)
4/23	6	PSSA: ELA (3-5)
4/24	1	PSSA: ELA (3-5)
4/25	2	-----
4/28	3	PSSA: Math (3-5)
4/29	4	PSSA: Math (3-5)
4/30	5	PSSA: Science (5)

Leader in Me Minute

The First Three Habits

In The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Dr. Covey defines seven habits. He groups the first three around the theme of independence – the habits that help us to set goals, planning, demonstrating initiative, responsibility, and integrity. These three habits are:

1. **Be Proactive**
   For students, this means understanding that they are in responsible for their actions and make good, responsible choices.
2. **Begin with the End in Mind**
   For students, this means setting goals and having a plan to meet them. Students who demonstrate the second habit look for opportunities to be a good citizen and contribute to the school and community.
3. **Put First Things First**
   For students, this means being organized, disciplined, and setting priorities.



Source: leaderinme.org/the-7-baits-of-happy-kids

Future Dates

April 30th/May 1st	PSSA: Science (Gr. 5)
May 2nd	Muffins with Mom
	2 Hr. Early Dismissal
May 3rd	May Fair
May 5th – 10th	Camp Hebron (Gr. 5)
May 14th	Spring Concert (1:30)
	Spring Concert (6:30)
May 19th	Field Trips (1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 5th)
May 20th	SCHOOL CLOSED (In-Service Day)
May 26th	SCHOOL CLOSED (Memorial Day)
May 27th	Field Day