

# *Long Beach Island Consolidated School District*

## “Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report, April 2025



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The fourth marking period is well underway. Staff and students are really looking forward to the final stretch. Third marking period report cards were sent home on April 11th. The PTA and staff have planned so many great events/trips for our students to take part in as we near the last day of school on Monday, June 16th.

The One District, Two Books Reading Celebration held on Wednesday, April 16th was a huge success! The staff, parents and students really seemed to enjoy the day! The LBI Grade School attended the EJ School to team up at different grade levels so that students could work together with a partner or a group. Older students worked with the younger students. The day served as a way for students to take part in learning experiences at the EJ School before the final transition of all staff and students in September.

Sixth grade graduation pictures were taken with Ann Coen on the beach. Special thanks to Ann for her time and support. Sixth grade students are really looking forward to end of year events and activities, especially Great Adventure this week, and the upcoming Bay Day!

The PTA met, and they were able to review the end of the school year fundraising and upcoming events and programs for next year. As you know, the auction at The Farm on Main was a huge success as well as the Enrichment Programs. A good time was had by all at the Red Carpet School Dance in March. Staff appreciation will be the week of May 13th. Thundering Surf Fun Passes, Yearbooks, and tickets for a Blue Claws game on May 9th at the Shore Town Ball Park in Lakewood are currently on sale. Ticket information is on the website. The restaurant fundraisers: Pietro’s, ScoJo’s, Burger 25, Wally’s, Panzones, and LBI Table (June) have also been a success. The PTA will hold a clothing drive on May 17th at the EJ School. We appreciate all they do for our students.

We plan to hold our 2nd annual fun run/walk for next year in September. The event this past year was well attended and all had a great time. Also, teachers are organizing the 2nd Annual Books vs. Badges on June 6th at 4 p.m. at the EJ School. Teachers and first responders will participate in a Kickball Game. Food donations will be accepted from spectators for St. Francis Food Pantry. All are welcome to attend.

I was notified by the Ocean County Clerk’s Office that Dylan Vangi, 4th grade student, is a finalist in the “My County” poster contest. Finalists’ posters are on the Ocean County Clerk’s Facebook page where you can vote for the finalists. Voting concludes on April 30th. Also, congratulations to Evan Marti, who placed in the TOP THIRTY in the entire state for the “Fun Things to do Instead of Drugs” Contest

sponsored by Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey! This is the FIRST time we have placed after many years of entering this contest, and we are so excited! Great job, Evan!

Beginning April 30th through May 16th students in grades 3-6 will take the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments.

Kindergarten registration is under way. We have updated local news and the district website.

Our next Curriculum Meeting is Wednesday, April 30th at 3:20 p.m. The Long Beach Island School District takes pride in our commitment to excellence in educating and empowering students through innovative educational learning experiences. We are extremely grateful to have creative teachers and families working together to support the needs of our students.

Thank you to our sixth grade students, teachers, and volunteers for participating in the Mock Trial on April 4th. The trial was well attended by parents

Thank you to Mrs. Gosline, Mrs. Benjamin, and S.A.I.L. students for a fun night by hosting a Family Feud game show. Families competed and received prizes.

We are looking forward to 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.

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



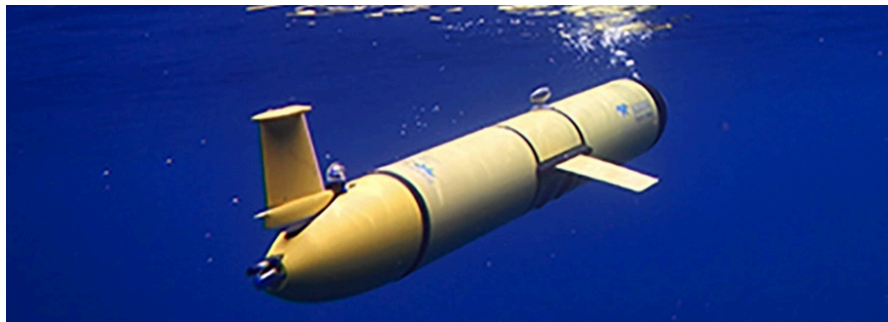
Special thanks to our sixth grade parents and LBI teachers, and to Ann Coen for taking graduation photos on the beach. The students had a great time!



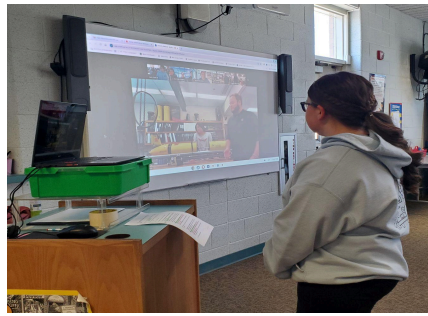
## 6th Grade

Our sixth grade scientists have been investigating Earth's movements by analyzing and interpreting patterns in data on the distribution of fossils and rocks, continental shapes, and seafloor structures to provide evidence of the past plate motions. Students developed and used models to represent and explain plate motion. Additionally, students explored the relationship between earthquakes, volcanoes, and tectonic plates using an interactive from Concord Consortium with data from USGS's Earthquake Catalog and the Smithsonian Institution's Global Volcanism Program. This resource was used as a model to visualize and explain how movements in Earth's crust and mantle relate to geologic processes and features on Earth's seafloor and surface. Other activities to support concepts in this unit, included students obtaining information on volcanoes to classify volcano types and describe effects of historic eruptions. The unit concluded with an engineering design challenge using criteria and constraints to construct an earthquake resistant building.

These students also participated in a unique teleconference with scientists and student engineers from Rutgers University to learn cutting-edge research about ocean robotic technology. To prepare for this experience, students explored underwater gliders (autonomous underwater vehicles) through an engineering challenge (sent to us by Rutgers University), and figured out how to ballast model gliders to represent this real-world engineering process. (See pictures below from the teleconference.)



An autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV)



Students participate in a teleconference with scientists and student engineer from Rutgers University



## 5th grade

Our fifth grade scientists spent several weeks exploring the solar system along with Earth's movements and patterns. To begin the unit, students investigated star brightness, and then made several scale models to represent distance between planets using kinesthetic walking models and paper models. In addition, students developed and used scale models using math to identify patterns and compare and contrast the diameter of planets using properly scale-sized 3D playdough planets.

Students also created kinesthetic models of Earth's movements around the sun to model day and night as well as yearly patterns, and used math to identify other patterns of planets such as distance from the sun and rotation and revolution periods.

Furthermore, our students planned and conducted investigations to test effects of gravity on objects with different mass and wrote explanations using claims, evidence and reasoning to support or refute claims. Then, students made parachutes to investigate air resistance as a factor affecting falling objects.

Finally, these students recently began a new unit involving organisms and ecosystems. Concepts in this unit included diversity and abundance of organisms, species interactions, stability and disturbance. To investigate these concepts, students developed and used models to explain interactions between organisms in food webs and participated in virtual field trips for exploring and observing ecosystems.

## 4th Grade

Our fourth grade students have been practicing metric measurement by using scientific instruments to measure capacity, length, and mass.

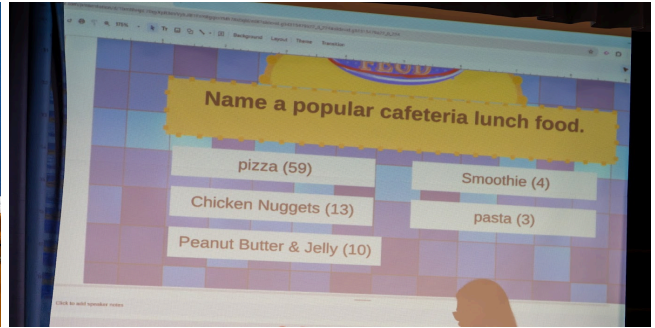


Students participating in STEAM Night.  
Thank you to Ms. McBride and Ms. Daly for hosting.



# S.A.I.L Club

## Family Feud Game Night



# ONE DISTRICT, TWO BOOKS READING CELEBRATION



## HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

After completing Floor Hockey, students in grades 3-6 will begin preparing for the President's Fitness Challenge, which tests their abilities in the areas of: speed and agility, upper body strength, core strength, flexibility, and endurance. PEP for 4th grade is Volleyball, 5th grade.

## Preschool News

PreK3 has been busy working with the letters O and P. We made an octopus, and a pig. We colored an O is for Octopus book, and P is for Pizza book. We colored Easter eggs for the hallway bulletin board. For Math we are working with ten frames and counters. We follow directions to put a certain number of counters on the frames. We practice our colors and shapes when we play a game where we put flash cards face down on the rug. We take turns picking up a card and tell what we see. I see a blue Square. 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 are looking forward to Spring weather and getting outside on the playground.

# Kindergarten Crew April Happenings

When it rains it pours in Kindergarten with so much happening! In reading the children have worked their way through the entire alphabet concentrating on letter/sound relationships, letter formations, and combining letters to form basic CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words. They will be introduced to short vowel sounds as well as magic e words that use the long vowel sounds.

In math we explored number patterns (vertically and horizontally) found in a 100 chart. The children did a great job manipulating and constructing all the numbers from 1-100. In Unit 12, the kiddos will explore 2-D and 3-D shapes in geometry.

In Science and Social Studies, the classroom focused on baby animals, Earth Day, spring eggs, new life, weather changes, and recycling!!! What a busy month !

## First Grade

With the arrival of Spring, we have continued to blossom and grow into strong learners here in 1st grade! In phonics, we have shown tremendous growth in our comprehension of long and short vowels by learning about various vowel teams and blends. As junior meteorologists in Science, we are continuing to learn all about how different types of weather form, precipitation, clouds, severe weather, weather forecasting, and weather vs. climate.

We have also recently planted Sugar Snap Peas for a fun contest that is held between the two first grade classes. Each year the 1st grade has a contest to see who can “get their peas to the table” first and studies the growth of sugar snap peas throughout the process. For Social Studies, we are wrapping up our unit on Community Economics where we learned about the flow of goods, services, and money in a community.

We recently wrapped up our Math unit on direct and indirect measurement and have moved on to reading analog and digital clocks. The students have really enjoyed learning how to tell time through the use of our class-set of Judy Clocks and various games! Spring has finally sprung and we are excited to see what the last marking period of school has in store for us.

## SECOND GRADE

Second Graders have been working very hard this year and are ready to hit the ground running into the fourth and final marking period.

Before spring break in EL, second graders finished a novel study of *Freckle Juice* by Judy Blume. This classic tale was an instant favorite amongst our students. In the coming month, second grade will be creating an opinion writing piece sharing where they think second grade should go on their class trip. Our students will write to share and support their opinions.

In Mathematics, second grade is currently working on 3-digit subtraction and will be beginning a unit on Measurement to start the month of May.

In Social Studies, our second graders are exploring types of communities and People Who Supply Our Goods and Services. We will discuss the differences between needs, and wants as well the basic economic concepts of money and trade.



Finally, in Science second graders are currently working on a unit all about the needs of Plants and Animals. Our second graders grew grass plants in their classrooms and monitored their growth. We are looking forward to moving ahead in our science curriculum to our final topic Animals and their Habitats. Speaking of Animals and their habitats, second graders are looking forward to their class trip to The Cape May Zoo at the end of May. Looking forward to a great rest of the school year in second grade.

## THIRD GRADE

Written By: The 3rd Graders in 3M 🎉

We are having a great time in April so far. We are reviewing addition and subtraction in math, and in science, we are building houses to adapt to different climates. We have started practicing for the NJSLA. In reading, we are writing paragraphs about our stories. In grammar, we are doing pronouns. In P.E., we are doing the pacer test. In music, we are playing flutophones. In art, we are making painting projects of a nice grassy scene and doing clay creations. We think it is amazing that we can choose our own P.E.P. and are excited for the 4th marking period's options. Finally, we are really enjoying reading Masterpiece 😊 after school and answering trivia questions about the book at school.

## Fourth Grade

The 4th grade is 'springing' ahead as we prepare for the NJSLA and the final marking period. In Math, we are in the last Topics of our book this month, which include Algebra, Geometry, and Measurement. In Science, we are learning about how oil spills occur and the effect they have on our environment. States and Capitals continue to be mastered during our Social Studies lessons.

Did you know that April is National County Government Month? The 4th graders have entered a poster contest representing all that Ocean County has to offer. One of our students, Dylan Vangi, has made it to the TOP TEN in the County Contest! Voting on Facebook is taking place now and ends on April 30th. Good luck, Dylan! Speaking of winners, thanks to Evan Marti, LBI has also placed in the TOP THIRTY in the entire state for the "Fun Things to do Instead of Drugs" Contest sponsored by Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey! This is the FIRST time we have placed after many years of entering this contest, and we are so excited! Great job, Evan!

ALL of our students will soon be published authors, as our Diamante poems have been sent for publication in the *Echoes of LBI* magazine. We are so excited to be a part of this special project every year. HOFNOD (Hooked On Fishing-Not On Drugs) entries have all been turned in, so hopefully we'll have a 4th grade student representing this wonderful program, as well. We are extremely grateful for so many opportunities to show off our talents while learning about the people and places around us.

## Fifth Grade

The 5th graders are ready for some warmer weather. In ELA the students are working on a unit of study on the dangers of marine plastic pollution. Students researched the effects of plastic pollution on our oceans and are writing opinion essays urging others to reduce their use of plastic. Jetty is donating misprinted T-shirts that couldn't be used, and students will be creating no-sew tote bags to use instead of plastic ones. Once the bags are finished they will be dropped off at Root: The Green Shoppe in Haven Beach. Customers will be able to offer a donation for the bags as they shop for sustainable items. Go check them out over spring break! The donations collected will be sent to ALO and The Jetty Rock Foundation.

In Social Studies we are starting the Revolutionary War and will be exploring its causes and the effects that followed. We are attending LEAD with officers from Township every week. We can't believe how fast this school year has gone, but you know what they say, "Time flies when you are having fun!"

## Sixth Grade

The 2025 Mock Trial of the Three Little Pigs vs the Big Bad Wolf came to a close last month! The 6th grade students put on a very impressive demonstration of all they learned through the process. Special thanks to Mr Wright for joining us during rehearsals and assisting the members of our legal teams and providing excellent advice for a successful trial. The 6th graders also had their graduation photos taken on the beach the other week. Special thanks to Ann Coen for helping with the picture process and taking beautiful shots!

As we begin the fourth and final marking period as LBI students, the sixth graders continue to learn and work hard in each of their classes. Poetry analysis continues in ELA with lots of opportunities to discuss the reading in groups both large and small. April concluded a unit on data collection and statistics where students practiced multiple methods of statistical analysis including finding the mean, the mean absolute deviation, and the range, and identifying outliers in a data set. All of this data was assembled into a poster which was presented and now hangs proudly in the hallway.



Thank you to our sixth grade students, teachers, and volunteers for participating in the Mock Trial on April 4th.



# GARDEN NEWS

We are off and growing ... again. The EJ Garden is planted for Spring of 2025. Just emerging from seed are: carrots, beets, spinach radish, snap peas and asparagus. Currently, the grow lights in the cafeteria are supporting 2 varieties of tomatoes, 4 varieties of peppers, tomatillos, eggplant, parsley, dill, basil and nasturtium seedlings. These Summer Veggies will hopefully go into the garden in May ... once things warm-up. KidsCare, Miss M, Grade 2 and Mr. LaMarco have teamed up to start, nourish and transplant 2 varieties of lettuce into the EJ Garden. We are expecting to taste test Spring Veggies in early May and start cukes and 4 varieties of squash in the classrooms for planting in June.

**"Lettuce Entertain You, Lettuce Make You Smile ..."**

