

Long Beach Island Consolidated School District

“Riding the Waves of Excellence”

Superintendent and Principal’s Report

May/June 2025

Long Beach Island Consolidated School District



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It looks like the warmer temperatures are here to stay. With nearly 20 school days remaining in the 24-25 school year, we all have so much to be grateful for. We truly appreciate all of your support as we look to the Summer of 2025.

The week of May 5th, we celebrated our LBI district staff during National Teacher Appreciation Week. The PTA worked to provide daily messages, snacks, and a gift certificate to celebrate our teachers and staff for promoting the very best in innovative instructional design and authentic learning for both our schools. With this, we say “Thank You” to our incredible team of teachers and staff members.

There will be an early dismissal on Friday, May 23rd. Field Day for EJ and LBI Schools will be held at the EJ School on Friday, May 30th, and our 2nd Annual Books vs Badges Kickball Showdown will be held at the EJ School on Friday, June 6th at 4 p.m. Food donations to the St. Francis Food Pantry will be accepted from those attending the event.

Our next Parent Information Night on consolidation will be held on June 2nd at the EJ School from 6-7 p.m.

Kindergarten Graduation will be held on June 12th. Congratulations to our Kindergarten graduates!

Also, congratulations to our upcoming sixth grade graduates and their parents/guardians! We have been working through the final preparations for the ceremony on June 12th. A special “Thank You” to our parents and students for all the support you have shown throughout these many years. In addition, “Thank You” to our dedicated PTA for their time and efforts in providing so much.

I look forward to providing more information soon about our summer programs in July and August.

Many thanks,

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! Special thanks to our PTA for all of their hard work, and the many learning activities provided for the 2025-2026 school year. Many thanks to all for a job well done!



6th Grade

Throughout May, our sixth grade scientists were investigating phenomena centered on living things and their structural and functional organization through several investigations. Students conduct investigations to provide evidence that living things are made of cells and identified living things and their components. Using microscopes, and analyzing images with digital microscopes and online interactive simulations, students identified and illustrated different types of cells and compared and contrasted their structure and function of parts. Students also investigated the function of cell membranes and read about cell theory to identify characteristics of life. Next, students investigated the levels of organization of multicellular organisms, and described their structure and function. Finally, they researched the collaboration and communication of the body's organ systems to create an informational poster demonstrating a specific activity.

Their final science unit for the year involved Force and Motion. Using blended learning and an individualized playlist model, students investigated forces and motion by planning and conducting hands-on investigations and reading informational text to explain phenomena. Students also measured forces, tested variables in simulations, and calculated speed and velocity of various objects. The final project involved an engineering design problem in which students designed and built roller coasters for maximum speed while also maintaining safety. Students collaborated to apply criteria and constraints through the engineering design process to solve this problem and calculate speed and kinetic energy of their roller coaster. Students then used this evidence to write a recommendation through the role of an engineer for their high speed roller coaster that adheres to safety guidelines for the potential riders.

5th Grade

The fifth grade scientists have been investigating living things and their environment. Students explored phenomena related to ecosystems and how matter and energy are transferred and cycled. Students developed and used models to demonstrate the source of energy and interaction of organisms through student-made food chains of their meals, kinesthetic food webs of the kelp forest and open ocean, and mathematical energy pyramids to demonstrate the interdependence of organisms and to quantify the transfer of energy among organisms. In addition, students made bottle ecosystems and investigated their local environment to explore ecosystem components and human impacts.

Our final project of the year involved a student-designed investigation to test the factors affecting the motion of toy cars. Students planned and conducted an investigation to test a question, identified variables, collected evidence and analyzed data to explain their results. Using toy cars, students collaborated to investigate factors such as weight of cars, height of ramps, and surface materials.

Finally, students participated in “Tomatosphere,” an exciting investigation to test the effect of space travel on germinating tomato seeds. Tomatosphere™ uses the excitement of space exploration to teach the skills and processes of scientific experimentation and inquiry. Students investigate the effects of the space environment on the growth of food that will inevitably support long-term human space travel. The primary objective of the experiment is to determine how many of the planted tomato seeds are successfully germinated after traveling on the International Space Station. They planted two types of tomato seeds in the classroom (one type as the control and one type that traveled on the International Space Station) and compared their germination rates (how long they took to sprout).

Music with Mr. Cotov

May and June bring so many musical opportunities for our LBI and EJ students. The EJ students successfully performed for our Spring Play entitled "The Great Outdoors." The Pre-K 4-year-olds hiked, the Kindergarten jogged, the 1st Grade went to the beach, and the 2nd Grade joined sports teams.

At LBI, we are preparing for our Spring Concert entitled "The Final Countdown" which will take place on May 29th at 6:00 PM. Violins, Cellos, and Bass will debut "My Country 'Tis of Thee." Our band will debut an original song composed by sixth grader, Summer Rickards. Our chorus will perform uplifting repertoire with a decidedly 80s theme.

In June, we look forward to 6th Grade graduation and are currently preparing songs to perform for the event.

HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

From mid May-early June students in grades 3-6 will continue preparing for and testing for the President's Fitness Challenge.

Fifth and 6th Grade students completed the Hands-Only CPR program taught by Hackensack Meridian Health. Also, the LBI Health Department will do a presentation on sun safety and ticks as part of the Bike Rodeo Day on June 4, 2025 for grades 3-6.

PREK MAY 2025



This month, we will have caterpillars in our class and watch them grow into butterflies. The butterflies will be Painted Ladies. We will explore the life cycle of a caterpillar to a butterfly. We will also watch the seeds that we planted grow into flowers.

Our new theme is Construction. The dramatic play area will be a construction site where we will have pretend tools and build things. We will learn about different tools and different materials that buildings are made out of. We will also learn all about different types of transportation that are used to carry heavy things and dig up large areas.

Throughout the month, we will try to build letters, numbers, and shapes using materials in the classroom! For our literacy lessons, we will review all of the lowercase letters from n-z. Every day, we will listen to a new alliteration and guess the letter sounds we hear.

In math, we are doing a countdown to the end of the school year. Every day is a number of how many days are left. We are using this special number and seeing how it looks as a word, ten frames, and tally marks. We are also using our knowledge of counting forward and trying to count backwards!

Kindergarten Crew Happenings

It has been a busy year in Kindergarten! We continue to practice our phonemic awareness skills now that we know all of the letters and letter sounds! We are rhyming experts and love to listen for rhymes all around us! We have worked hard to “own” almost all 40 high frequency words that we can use in our reading and writing! We are improving our reading by breaking down CvC and CvCe words. We are also focusing on story structure, sequence of events, and understanding story characters.

In Math, we will complete our last topic which is focused on describing and comparing measurable attributes of objects. We are looking forward to a fun Playground Measuring activity! Our trip to StoryBook Land is a fun way to wrap up all that we learned this year. Next up....GRADUATION - we can't believe we will be First Graders soon! This is such an exciting time!

First Grade

First grade is ending the school year with a BANG! In phonics, we are continuing to grow as readers and are spending the last few weeks reviewing all of the skills that we have learned throughout this past school year. We just wrapped up learning about soft c and soft g. Now we will be spending a great deal of time on r-controlled vowels. The children will be playing various games and activities to help them understand that the letter "r" is very powerful and it changes the sounds that vowels "normally" make.

In math, we are finishing up our first grade curricula with fractions. We know that money is no longer a first grade skill; however, we like to end the year with some fun hands-on activities involving money. After all, it is a life skill that the kids will need to have and use every day as they grow up! We have started to familiarize the students with some of the material that they will be learning in 2nd grade to give them a little bit of a jump start and ease any worries they may have. We call this Step-Up to Second Grade. We've worked on telling time to the nearest 5 minutes, addition and subtraction within a wider range of numbers.

As we continue to wind down with the last few weeks of school, Social Studies lessons continue as we learn about Geography. Students will explore what exactly maps are and what we might see on a variety of maps including various landforms and manmade structures. We will also be able to understand the differences between continents and oceans.

We are ending the year in first grade with an ABC Countdown. Starting on the 26th day, the students will have a theme day that matches a letter in the alphabet. This week we started with A Day, which was Animal Day. The children were able to bring in a stuffed "animal" to represent the letter A for Animal Day. B Day is Backwards Day, C Day is a Camp themed day, etc. Touch base with our first grade friends for them to share with you all that we have going on! This school year has certainly been exciting and while we will continue to have fun in these last few weeks of school, we still have a lot of content to cover...

Since September, the students have all come very far academically as well as socially and emotionally, and we couldn't be more pleased! We will miss seeing their smiling faces every day here in 1st grade!

SECOND GRADE

It has been a very busy May in Second grade! Second graders have been working tremendously hard as we close out the fourth marking period and prepare for the transition to third grade. This month, students had their EJ Spring Concert. They sang their hearts out and really did an outstanding job! Second graders continue to work hard, and show that they are ready for additional responsibilities as they get closer to becoming third graders in the fall.

In ELA, second graders published a persuasive essay about where they think would be the best place to go on a class trip. They learned about how to state their opinion clearly, and support it with strong reasons and details. Maybe they will succeed in convincing their teachers about a worthwhile class trip to take in the future? Next, students are beginning a novel study on "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," by Roald Dahl. Second grade has been really enjoying this novel, diving deep into its various story elements and themes.

In Mathematics, second graders completed a unit on Measurement. They learned about different tools and units of measure, estimated, compared measurements. Students also learned about the importance of being precise when measuring. To close out the month, second graders will begin a unit in Geometry. Students are learning about shapes and their attributes. Students have been exploring the characteristics of 2 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional figures.

In Social Studies, second grade will close out the year working on our final unit, People who Supply our Goods and Services. We will focus on the challenges producers face and learn about basic economic concepts, including the difference between producers and consumers.

Lastly, in Science second grade will finish the year by completing a unit on Plants, Animals, and their Environments. Second graders have been learning about animal habitats and adaptations needed for survival. This is followed up with a class trip to the Cape May Zoo, where students will explore animals in their natural habitats. Second graders look forward to a wonderful trip!

Words cannot express how proud we are of our second graders this year. They have worked so hard all year to be true role models and leaders at Ethel Jacobsen Elementary. While we are so sad to say goodbye to our students, we are so excited to see all that they will achieve as they continue their journey next year in third grade.

THIRD GRADE

Our third graders have been working hard and showing incredible perseverance, especially during their very first time taking the NJSLA! We're so proud of how they stayed focused and did their best. In reading, students are building their fluency and expression through Reader's Theater performances, while in writing, they are crafting thoughtful personal narratives that reflect their unique experiences. There's so much to look forward to as we head into the final weeks of school. Our upcoming trip to the Pinelands Institute will be an exciting opportunity to learn about the Lenape Native Americans, and we can't wait for Field Day and all the fun end-of-year activities that celebrate a year of learning and growth!

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is full steam ahead as we prepare to move into our last month of school! Our class trip to Allaire State Park was geared toward learning about the Industrial Revolution in New Jersey. We completed an online Scavenger Hunt to learn more about the local history of our state. Speaking of states, our States and Capitals lessons have been a fun part of our activities throughout the year. For our final project, we are making Posters of states to share with each other!

We have been getting our math brains in tip-top shape with our study of geometry, measurement, graphs, and angles. Science Lab has been focused on Fossils to end the school year. We are continuing learning skills from our Reading book, but will get the chance to experience various Read-Alouds until the end of the school year.

Congratulations to one of our students for WINNING SECOND PLACE in the Ocean County Government Poster Contest! He and his teachers will soon be attending a County Government meeting to be recognized as one of the TOP WINNERS in the County! We are so proud of all our student participants!

Fifth Grade

The 5th Graders cannot believe it is the last full month of the year! Time flies when you are having fun! They have been working hard with everything. In ELA students are working on Literature Circles. In Social Studies we are getting deep into the Revolutionary War. We are so excited for our class trip to Jen's Links and the lighthouse. Field day is going to be awesome!!

Sixth Grade

The Sixth Graders were treated to an incredible trip to Six Flags this month! We had a great day and lots of memories were made together. State testing has ended and now the sixth grade students are focused on their final curriculum units in each class. They focused on characterization by writing a narrative from an alternate character's point of view in ELA, used geometric nets and 3D shapes to construct a miniature Long Beach Island in Math, and are designing roller coasters in science to learn about velocity, speed, and force.



GARDEN NEWS

EJ Garden is finishing out spring planting between rain storms and fog banks, as students try to get summer veggies and flowers in the ground. The season is off to a S-L-O-W start. This past week Kindergarten harvested radishes with Mr. La Marco in the EJ Garden and Ms. Maria created a schoolwide taste test. Pre-K Half Day planted additional strawberries and Pre-K Full Day planted zinnias and snapdragons. Our Grade 2 lettuce is about ready to harvest but the spinach is struggling this year. The first round of Grade 1 snap peas were “nipped” by a rabbit but reseeding appears to be successful ... so far.

Thank you to all the school families and staff members who have volunteered to weed, water and watch the EJ Garden over the summer. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact your child's homeroom teacher for SY 25-26.

