



Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 24-25-7

May 23, 2025

Girl's Softball Makes the County Finals

The Lady Lakers softball team has wrapped up a great regular season and is now competing in the GMCJSCA Softball Tournament! The team showed impressive growth this year, improving their skills, building strong teamwork, and playing with heart in every game. With several exciting wins and a few close games, the girls have proven their determination and love for the game. Now, after wins in both the first round and semifinals of the county tournament, the team is focused and motivated to play in the championship game. Check the calendar on the school website for the most up to date scheduling information. Good luck and GO LAKERS!



Upcoming Events

5/26 - Memorial Day - No School

5/29 - Decker Field Day (Rain Date 6/3)

5/30 - MAPS Field Day (Rain Date 6/2)

6/10 - Athletics Banquet

6/11 - Board of Education Meeting - 7:00pm

6/12 - 8th Grade Dance

6/16 - 2nd Grade Shadow Day @ MAPS

6/17 - Annual Decker Performance - 9:30am

6/19 - Early Dismissal

6/19 - 8th Grade Graduation @ MAPS - 6:30pm

6/20 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - Early Dismissal HAVE AN AMAZING SUMMER!



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From the Board of Education President

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank our Superintendent, Ms. Monica Rowland, for her dedicated service to our district over the past eight years. As you may have heard, she recently announced that she will be retiring on June 30th due to medical reasons. Ms. Rowland's legacy includes initiatives for student success and school safety. Her presence will be sorely missed. To enable the smoothest transition possible, the Board has hired Dr. Jane Jameson as the interim superintendent for the months of July and August and Dr. Thomas Ficarra beginning in September and for the remainder of the school year. Both have previously served our district in the role of superintendent so we are confident that their experience and leadership will help us navigate the upcoming year.

Rachel Byrne

BOE President



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Principal's Corner

Is it really almost June already? Time is flying!

Our students and staff have been incredibly busy as we wrap up the school year. NJSLA testing went smoothly, and we enjoyed some fantastic Spring Concerts this week—don't miss the photos later in this issue! We're also looking forward to Field Day at both Decker and MAPS, always a highlight of the season. Meanwhile, our 8th graders are gearing up for some memorable events as they prepare to say goodbye to MAPS and get ready for high school. It's truly an exciting time for everyone!

We hope you enjoy this issue of Laker Insider!

Truly,
Joe Coladarci
Principal





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PTO Highlights

Our spring has been packed with fun and excitement this year! Thanks to generous donations from parents and fundraisers, the PTO has been able to host a variety of events for students and teachers.

Our students at Decker School had an unforgettable visit from Jenkinson's Aquarium on April 7th, where they met the adorable Captain Jack, an African penguin who waddled his way into everyone's hearts. Meanwhile, our 6th–8th graders lit up the night at the glow party—dressed head-to-toe in glowing gear, dancing non-stop, and competing for prizes in the Best Dressed and Best Dancer categories.

Earlier this month, we also celebrated our incredible teachers with a 90s-themed Teacher Appreciation Week! They were treated to a week of well-deserved goodies including breakfast, a snack cart, school supply bar, flower bar cart, luncheon, and fun daily trivia giveaways.

Looking ahead, we've got even more to be excited about! Dialed Action's BMX Show is rolling into MAPS on May 27th, promising thrills for all. And don't forget—Field Days are coming next week, and the PTO will be providing a delicious pizza lunch for everyone. As always, we rely on the incredible support of our volunteers to make these events happen. Whether you're available during or after school or want to help coordinate fundraisers or events, we'd love to have you join us—just email mtarlingtonpto@gmail.com.

Stay in the loop with everything PTO by signing up on PT Board at mta.ptboard.com using school code 93KANX. You can also follow us on Facebook (Mount Arlington PTO) and Instagram (@mountarlingtonpto) for updates, photos, and more. Thanks for being a part of our amazing school community!

Mount Arlington PTO Board
Brooke, Laura and Randi



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Spring Concerts

The Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Concert Choir and Honors Choir all performed at their Spring Concert on 5/20/25. The Beginning Band and 3rd and 4th grade choirs had their Spring Concert on 5/22/25.





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TREP\$

Our TREP\$ program had their 3rd successful Marketplace this year, where products and services such as; jewelry, welded figures, bath bombs, pens, stickers, socks, sugar scrubs, mystery boxes, magnets, terrariums, face painting, tattoos, and a photo booth. TREP\$, short for enTREPpreneur\$, is a project-based learning program that teaches kids in grades 6-8 how to start their own businesses through a 6-week after-school program. They learn essential business skills such as pricing, marketing, advertising, and sales that students then apply as they build their businesses. The whole school, family, and community members are invited to come and enjoy the TREP\$ Marketplace, held right at school, where our young entrepreneurs launch their businesses together. Each spring at the TREP\$ Marketplace, students apply their newly learned business skills where they set up table displays, set price points, perform a sales pitch, and manage money. All students win by making a profit, which they get to keep for their hard work and efforts. A special thank you to the Lake Hopatcong Rotary Club and the PTO for your generous donations to support this program.



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2025 Art Show



Victoria Martinez



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2025 Art Show . . . continued





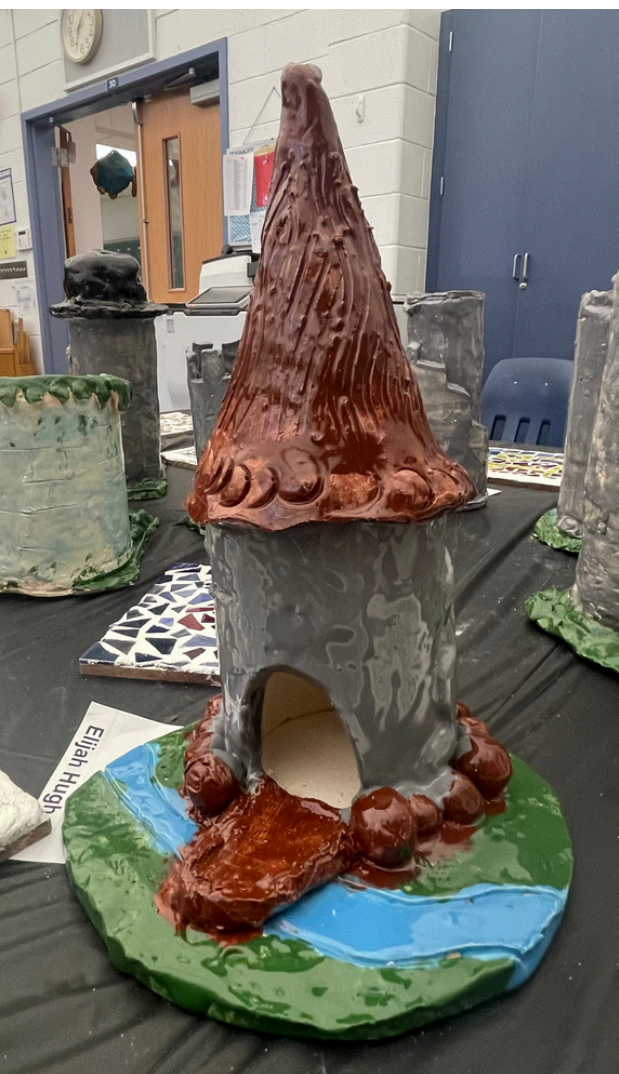
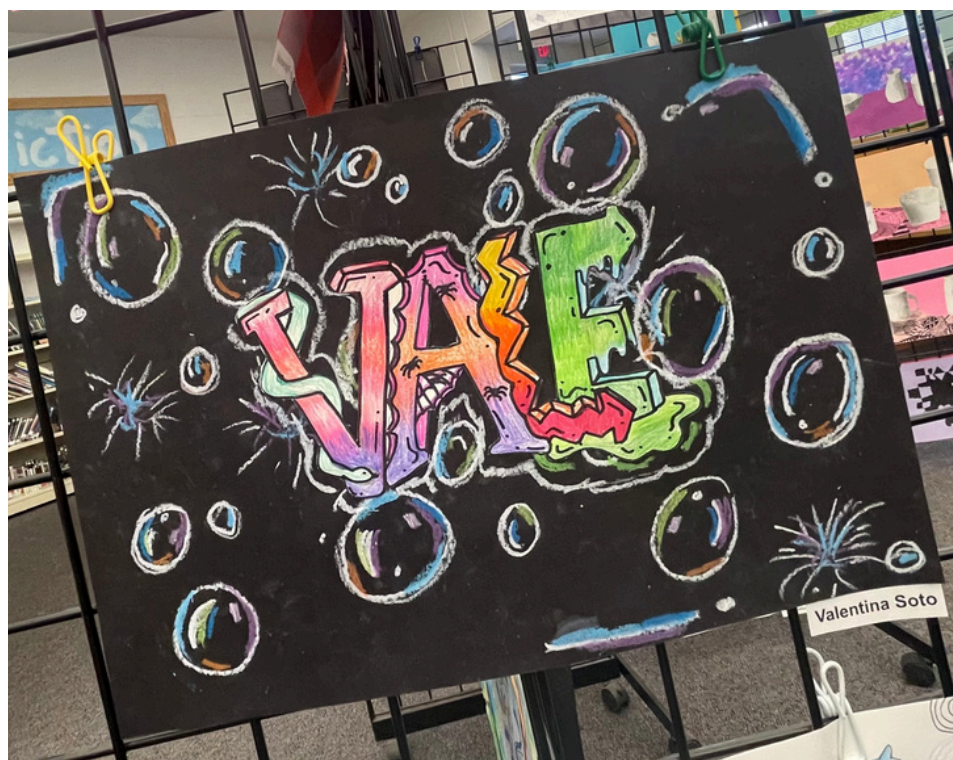
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2025 Art Show . . . continued





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A photograph of a display of student artwork on a black grid wall. The artwork includes various still life drawings of pottery and vessels, as well as abstract designs. One drawing is titled "Grade 7 Class Mosaic Tiles Value and Symmetry Still-Life Drawing Helen Designs". The drawings are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some featuring vibrant, colorful backgrounds and others with more muted tones. The pottery depicted includes vases, cups, and bowls, some rendered in a more realistic style and others in a more stylized, abstract manner. The overall display is organized and visually appealing, showcasing a variety of artistic skills and styles.





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7th Grade

The 7th grade class enjoyed two field trips this spring. In April, students had the privilege of participating in a town council meeting. They met the Mount Arlington Borough elected officials and learned all about their role in the community. This was a great way for 7th graders to see democracy in the real world. The class also traveled back in time to experience Medieval Times this week. They witnessed chivalry in action, ate lunch without utensils, and cheered on the yellow & red knight as he finished in second place in the tournament of honor.





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1st Grade

The first grade students have been working hard on a service learning project in which they will collect used and broken crayons. The collected crayons will be sent away and melted down to form new crayons for children in hospitals. As part of our crayon collection unit, students will read and discuss the stories "The Day The Crayons Quit" and "The Day The Crayons Came Home" as well as work on point of view and opinion writing projects. Once the crayon collection ends, students will sort, weigh, graph, and analyze the results of the crayon collection. The first graders are very excited to help the environment as well as cheer up children in hospitals. To wrap up this exciting unit, we will also be taking a trip to The Crayola Factory to see how crayons are actually made.

Please view our flyer and donate to our Crayon Drive.



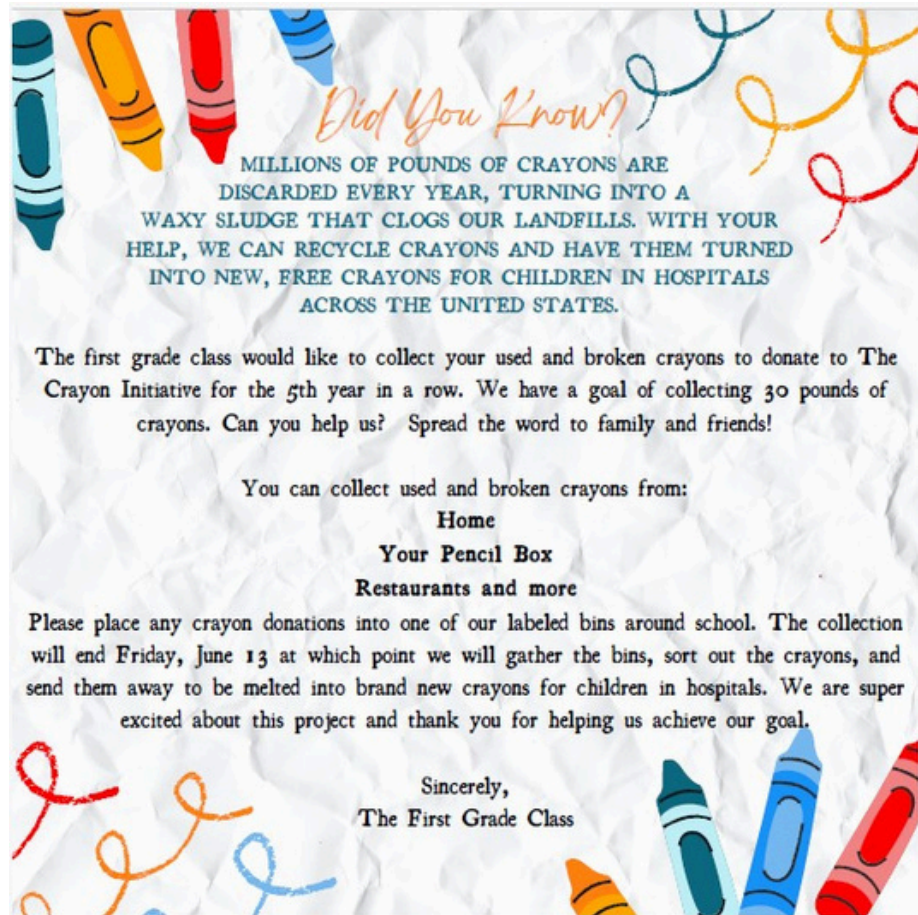


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1st Grade . . . continued



Did You Know?

MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF CRAYONS ARE DISCARDED EVERY YEAR, TURNING INTO A WAXY SLUDGE THAT CLOGS OUR LANDFILLS. WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN RECYCLE CRAYONS AND HAVE THEM TURNED INTO NEW, FREE CRAYONS FOR CHILDREN IN HOSPITALS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

The first grade class would like to collect your used and broken crayons to donate to The Crayon Initiative for the 5th year in a row. We have a goal of collecting 30 pounds of crayons. Can you help us? Spread the word to family and friends!

You can collect used and broken crayons from:

- Home
- Your Pencil Box
- Restaurants and more

Please place any crayon donations into one of our labeled bins around school. The collection will end Friday, June 13 at which point we will gather the bins, sort out the crayons, and send them away to be melted into brand new crayons for children in hospitals. We are super excited about this project and thank you for helping us achieve our goal.

Sincerely,
The First Grade Class





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Science

Back in March, our Science Fair, hosted by the MAEA, turned out to be a truly memorable event. Students from grades 5 through 8 came together to celebrate science in creative, hands-on ways. Each grade brought something special to the day: 5th graders wowed us with their Wax Museum of famous scientists, 6th graders ran interactive exhibits that got everyone involved, 7th graders impressed us with lively science debates and trivia games, and 8th graders shared their original research projects, showing real insight into the scientific process. We're so proud of all our students for the effort, curiosity, and excitement they brought to the fair. A big thank-you goes out to our amazing teachers, supportive families, dedicated volunteers, custodial staff, and our school administration for their encouragement and support in making the night such a success.





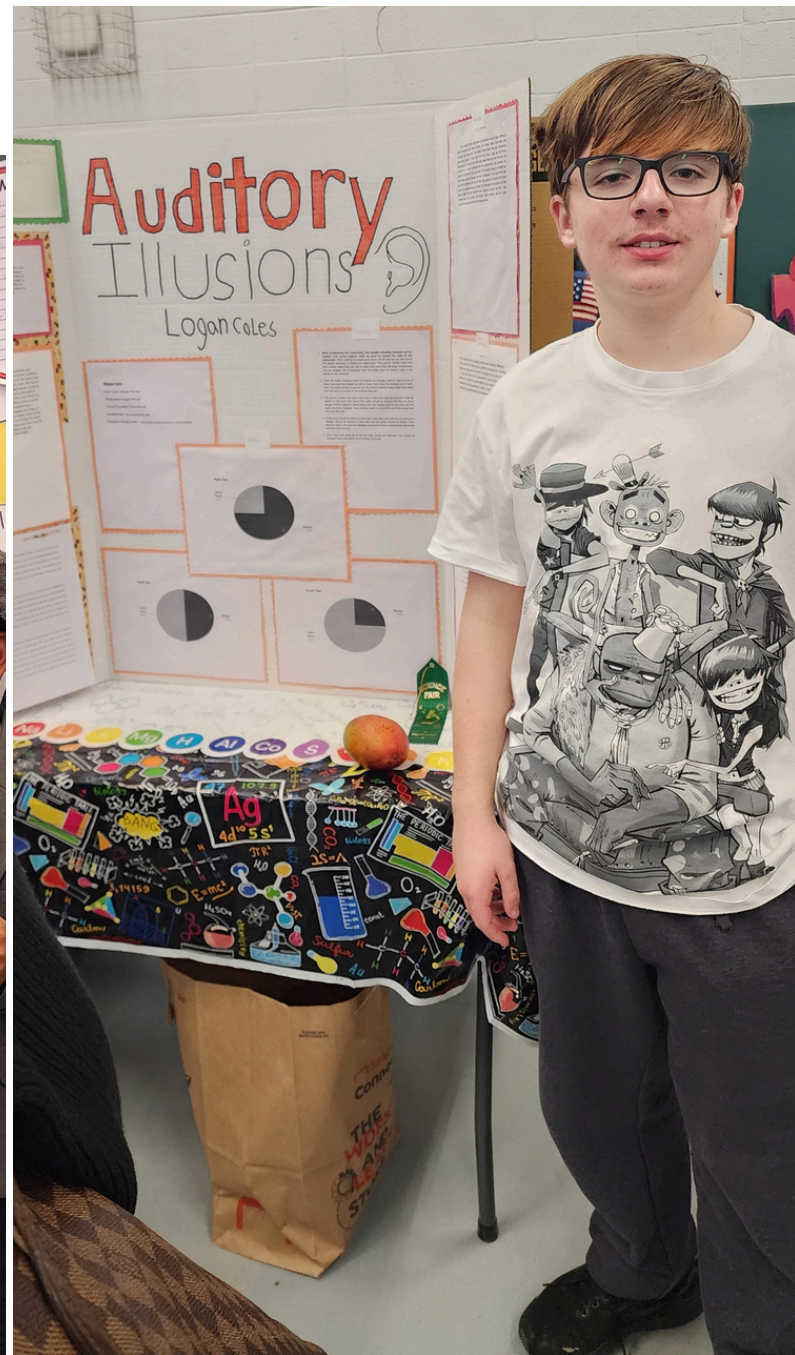
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Science . . . continued





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Science . . . continued





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Science . . . continued

