



Dr. D'Aversa & Ms. Cucinello would like to share . . .

Important Dates

- 2 Daylight Savings Ends
- 3 LADSBS Food Drive
begins (thru Dec. 12)
- 4 Superintendent's
Conference Day and
Election Day
No Student Attendance
- 5 Picture Retake Day
LADSBS
- 11 Veterans Day
Schools Closed
- 14 Athletes Helping
Athletes Program
Grade 5
- 19 Jared Campbell
Assemblies, all grades
- 19 Grade 5 Family Fun
Night, LADSBS
- 19 Board of Education
Meeting 8:00 p.m., MPHS
- 25 Early Dismissal Drill
15 minutes early
- 26-28 Thanksgiving Recess
Schools Closed

Save the Date!

Tuesday, December 9th
Parent-Teacher Conferences
LADSBS, AMPS
No Student Attendance K-5

We hope this newsletter finds you and your family well as we welcome the month of November and the beginning of the holiday season.

October was a busy and exciting month here at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School! Our fifth grade students enjoyed a memorable trip to the Bronx Zoo, and all of our students had visits from the local fire department to learn about fire safety. In addition, students participated in a DASA lesson focused on kindness and inclusivity.

Classroom routines are now well established, and we are fully immersed in our curriculum. Halloween was a festive day, with students dressing up in costumes and enjoying themed lessons and celebrations. Our music program is in full swing, with lessons underway and our concert ensembles meeting in the morning.

This month's school-wide theme is gratitude. Our guidance department will continue classroom visits to deliver character education lessons centered on thankfulness and giving. We are also excited to launch the "Battle of the Grades" Food Drive, running from November 3rd through December 12th. A list of requested items by grade level can be found on our school website. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

We're thrilled to announce that Jared Campbell, an award-winning singer/songwriter from New York, will be performing for our students on November 19th. Jared's music delivers powerful messages about motivation, kindness, and anti-bullying, and we are looking forward to this inspiring assembly.

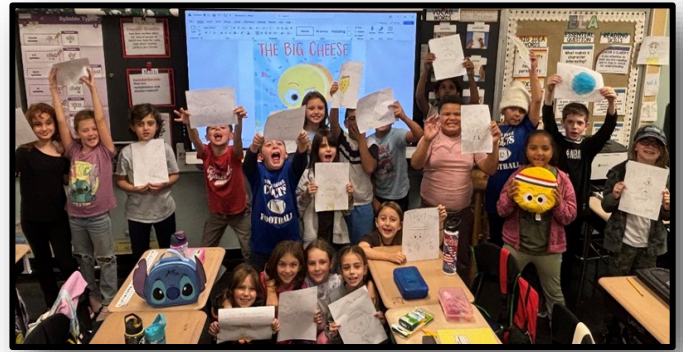
Throughout November, we will also be honoring our veterans in recognition of Veterans Day. We are deeply grateful for the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women, past and present. We thank them for their courage, strength, and dedication to our country.

This year, we're proud to introduce a new building-wide initiative developed by our School Improvement Team: The ROAR Initiative. At our ROAR Assembly on October 16th, student volunteers helped introduce this program by modeling key positive behavior traits and social-emotional skills that represent what it means to "show your ROAR." Throughout the year, teachers and staff will nominate two students per class who consistently demonstrate these traits. Recognized students will receive a Certificate of ROAR and a homework pass. Our ROAR values include: **R**esponsibility, **O**ptimism, **A**cts of Kindness, and **R**espect.

On behalf of everyone at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School, we wish you and your family a safe, happy, and gratitude-filled Thanksgiving!

Third Grade Thoughts . . .

Our third graders are learning so much! We are finishing up Module 1 of our reading program, HMH *Into Reading*, where students are exploring what makes characters interesting. As we begin Module 2, the students are excited to learn about poetry and letters in order to build their knowledge about how people express themselves. In Math, our students learned the foundational skills of multiplication and division, and are moving onto learning about place value and problem solving with units of measure. We are beginning our weather unit, which has been an engaging unit for the third graders; from analyzing weather patterns to learning about weather tools, our students love being meteorologists!



Many of our third grade classes had a wonderful opportunity to experience, two incredible authors, Jeff Kinney and Pete Oswald, streaming live into their classrooms! Jeff Kinney, the author of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, gave us a virtual tour of his creative workspace (which was inspired by his books), challenged us with trivia, read a sneak peek from his new book, and even showed us how to design our own characters. To top it off, he surprised everyone by announcing his upcoming movie, “Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw”, coming out this December!

Next, we met Pete Oswald, the author and illustrator of *The Big Cheese*, *The Bad Seed*, *The Smart Cookie*, and more. He shared what inspires his stories, got us moving with a fun “workout warm-up,” read *The Big Cheese*, and taught us how to draw the main character ourselves. It was such an exciting day of creativity, laughter, and inspiration!

Fourth Grade Focus . . .

Fourth grade students are using technology daily, including Google Classroom, to enhance their learning experiences. In math, we’ve completed Module 1 and are now working on Module 2: Conversions and Problem Solving with Metric Measurement, focusing on length, mass, and capacity. Lessons and assignments can be found on the [Engage NY web-site](#). Please ensure your child practices multiplication facts up to 12s daily or uses REFLEX Math for fluency.



During reading, students are exploring various genres through the HMH *Into Reading* series. They are practicing skills such as retelling, summarizing, identifying main ideas and details, recognizing problem/solution, theme, and figurative language. Encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes each night to strengthen comprehension and fluency.

In science, we’re studying “*A Walk in the Park*,” focusing on how plants and animals interact within ecosystems. Students enjoyed our field trip to Miller Place Pond, where they conducted a scavenger hunt and made real-world observations.

During social studies, we are continuing our study of New York’s geography, regions, and resources. Students are learning to read and interpret maps as we begin our new unit on the Native People of New York. Please continue checking take-home folders and agenda books daily to help your child stay organized. Thank you for your ongoing support in making learning meaningful!



Fifth Grade Flash...

What a great start to the school year! The students have been adjusting nicely and we have been diving into the curriculum as well as making new friendships.

Academically, we have been moving right along! In Math, we are well into Module 2 which is multiplication and division. Memorizing multiplication facts at home is a great way for students to practice and be prepared for the upcoming lessons. In ELA, we have been focusing on the HMH curriculum but will be getting into novels shortly.

We have also started our "Toy's Matter" unit which is a kit with many different hands-on lessons for the students. They really enjoy learning and exploring matter through this unit. We have started our ancient civilizations unit and students are enjoying learning about the Aztec, Incan and Mayan civilizations.

Our fifth grade students enjoyed a wonderful field trip to the Bronx Zoo. It was a beautiful fall day, the sun was shining, and the park was peaceful and quiet. Students had an exciting opportunity to explore the zoo's newest exhibit, *The World of Darkness*, which featured bats, sloths, snakes, and other fascinating reptiles. Here the students observed animals from around the world, learning about their habitats, behaviors, and conservation efforts. They were especially curious about how nocturnal animals adapt to life in the dark.



One of the highlights of the day was the Wild Asia Monorail, where students took a scenic tour through the Asian habitats of the zoo. From the comfort of the monorail, they spotted elephants, rhinos, and tigers while learning about the unique environments these animals call home. The ride gave everyone a new appreciation for the diversity of wildlife across the world.



Throughout the trip, students demonstrated curiosity and enthusiasm, asking thoughtful questions and making connections to what they've been learning in science class. Teachers and chaperones were proud of how respectful and engaged everyone was. It was truly a memorable day filled with learning, exploration, and joy!

The time is flying and before we know it, it will be Thanksgiving break. We are so proud of our fifth graders and are looking forward to a wonderful year.

Community Corner ...

In an effort to give back to our community, the students of LADSBS are excited to participate in our annual Food Drive which will take place as the colder weather and holiday season approaches.

Beginning Monday, November 3rd through Friday, December 12th, students are encouraged to participate in our “Battle of the Grades” collection, where each grade is encouraged to collect items on their suggested list. At the end of the food drive, the grade with the most items, wins! Our food drive will take place on a “rolling” basis, and we are asking each grade level to bring in different items to ensure a wide variety of items that families/individuals may need:

3rd Grade

- * Pancake Mix
- * Juice Boxes
- * Granola Bars
- * Oatmeal/Dry Cereal
- * Jam/Jelly
- * Peanut Butter
- * Apple Sauce/Fruit cups
- * Coffee/Tea
- * Cake/Brownie mixes

4th Grade

- * Chicken/Veg Broth
- * Pasta/Rice
- * Mac & Cheese
- * Taco/Enchilada Kits
- * Canned Tuna/Chicken
- * Canned/Boxed Soup
- * Canned Tomatoes/beans
- * Pasta Sauce
- * Ramen Noodles

5th Grade

- * Instant Potatoes
- * Stuffing Mix
- * Canned Vegetables
- * Cranberry Sauce
- * Canned Gravy
- * Biscuit mix
- * Canned meat
- * Meals in a Box
- * Crackers

*** All food should be “non-perishable” and please no glass jars!*

As always, we are so grateful for the generosity shown by the LADSBS students, staff, and families.

Last month, the Miller Place and Sound Beach Fire Departments visited LADSBS to teach students in grades 3–5 all about fire safety. During their presentation, firefighters and EMTs discussed important topics such as how to properly use smoke detectors, why it’s important to keep bedroom doors closed at night, and what to do in the event of a fire at home.



Students had the opportunity to ask questions, explore some of the firefighters’ gear, and learn firsthand about the tools and equipment used in emergency situations. The firefighters emphasized the importance of staying calm, having a plan, and practicing fire drills at home, just like they do at school.

At the end of the visit, the firefighters gave the students a special “homework” assignment: to work with their families to create a home fire escape plan and choose a safe meeting spot outside. This hands-on activity encourages families to talk about safety together and make sure everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.

The LADSBS community extends a heartfelt thank you to the Miller Place and Sound Beach Fire Departments for taking the time to educate our students and help keep our community safe!





Halloween Fun...



Music Musings...

Band The Fifth Grade Band students are making fantastic progress on their two holiday songs for the Winter Concert. We have been learning all about using dynamics, working as a group, and spreading holiday cheer through music. We hope you are enjoying hearing these familiar tunes at home as they practice. The Fourth Grade Band students are off to a great start learning their first few songs. Students are learning how to read notes as well as play as a group.



General Music Fourth grade music classes have been filled with note reading and writing our own music! Students have been working on their music literacy to begin playing instruments, playing individually, and layering as a class ensemble. Students have been writing, analyzing and performing their own music, it has been wonderful seeing what they create!



Fifth grade music classes are working on strengthening their rhythm skills, sight reading to enhance their musicianship, and delving into musical concepts that allow them to describe music and connect to what they are listening to. Over the course of this month, we will be improving our note reading and begin to put our knowledge into practice through learning songs with classroom instruments!

Orchestra Our fifth graders are hard at work preparing for their upcoming concert on Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. at North Country Road Middle School. Orchestra students are growing as musicians through learning ways to balance as an ensemble, watch a conductor, and evaluate their performance to continue to improve.

Our Fourth Grade Orchestra is learning how to read notes, keep a steady beat, hold our instruments correctly, and use pizzicato to play their instruments. Students are working toward playing with their bows shortly after the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Chorus Our Fifth Grade Chorus is sounding beautiful! The students in chorus are so determined to sound their best and blend as an ensemble. We are working diligently on three songs for our Winter Concert. They are singing in harmony and learning about the importance of partner songs to gain confidence and musical independence. Please be on the lookout for a letter home regarding further concert information.

Kindness Corner...

The LADSBS School Kindness Initiative continues to thrive with kind acts observed daily. Throughout the year students who display superior character and kindness may receive a coupon. The coupons are entered into a monthly raffle to win a token to use on the Book Vending Machine.

Congratulations to our November Kindness Winners!

*Stella Ramos, Milo Lafler, Kamryn Singer,
Joseph Aliano, Olivia Hoenigmann,
Tristian Troncoso*



School Spirit...

Last month we held our introductory ROAR Assembly, where student volunteers helped demonstrate positive behavior traits, including key social and emotional skills that reflect what it means to “show their ROAR”.



Throughout the year, teachers and staff will nominate two students per class who consistently demonstrate these traits, resulting in a total of eight nominations. Our ROAR values include:



R - Responsibility (2 students per class) November

O - Optimism (2 students per class) January

A - Acts of Kindness (2 students per class) March

R - Respect (2 students per class) May



Students at LADSBS are thrilled with the new playground obstacle course! Laughter and excitement fill the air as children test their balance, strength, and agility on the challenging new course. The obstacle course has quickly become a favorite part of recess, encouraging active play, teamwork, and endless fun for everyone.



Art-I-Facts...

Big shoutout to the fifth graders for a job well done on a difficult art lesson! Students recently explored the art of observation through hyper-realistic still life drawings of lollipops. Using vibrant colors, shading, and fine detail, they're learning how light, texture, and reflection bring everyday objects to life. Each drawing captured the sweetness and sparkle of the candy, showcasing both technical skill and creative expression.

Also focusing on texture, fourth grade students completed striking dragon eye paintings. Using layered brushstrokes, color blending, and mixed media, they learned how to make scales look rough and eyes appear glossy and alive.

Third graders are finishing up landscape collages inspired by Alma Thomas's mosaic-like art style. Using colorful paper pieces arranged in rhythmic patterns, they're exploring repetition, color harmony, and design. Each collage celebrates creativity and joy, much like Thomas's own expressive approach to art.

Board of Education

Lisa Reitan, President
Bryan Makarius, Vice President
John Galligan, Trustee
Jennifer Keller, Trustee
Andrea Spaniolas, Trustee



Save the Date . . .

*Tuesday, December 9th—No Student Attendance
Parent-Teacher Conference Day at LADSBS and
AMPS. More details to follow!*

Citizenship...We help others!

District Office Administration

Seth A. Lipshie, Superintendent of Schools
Susan G. Craddock, Assistant Superintendent
Colleen V. Card, School Business Official
Christopher J. Herrschaft, Director of Human Resources
**Ron Petrie, Administrator for Physical Education, Health,
Athletics and Intramurals**
Kurt Roth, Administrator for Instruction and Data Reporting
Barbara A. Weir, Director of Technology
Wayne M. Casey, Director of Facilities
Jeremy Koch, Administrator for Pupil Personnel Services

Helpful Hints...

- **Early Pick Up:** When you know ahead of time that you will be picking your child up from school, it is very helpful that you send a note in to that effect. If anyone other than a parent picks a child up from school, we require a written note from the parent, even if the person picking up is on your contact card. If your appointment/plans are cancelled and you find you no longer need to pick your child up, please call to let us know. When we have a note saying that a parent will be picking a child up from school, we will not send him/her on the bus unless we receive a call.
- **Emergency Closing Information:** Green "Emergency Closing" forms were sent home over the summer. If you have not already done so, please provide information as to how your child will travel home in the event of an early school closing due to an emergency or inclement weather. If your child attends SCOPE after-school child care, be reminded that after-care closes in the event of an emergency early dismissal. Please let us know your alternate arrangements, and make sure to have the forms back to us before November 7th.
- **Lost and Found:** If your child is missing an item, please remind them to check our Lost and Found. All unclaimed items will be donated before the Holiday Break.



*"The sum of us is greater
than all our parts."
Maya Angelou*