



LADSBS News...



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

Important Dates:

- 1-2 Winter Recess
Schools Closed
- 7 [LADSBS Steam Night](#)
Snow Date: Jan. 8
- 13,14 Clubs Begin
LADSBS
- 16 Peace & Kindness
Day (Wear Blue)
- 19 Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Day
Schools Closed
- 28 Board of Ed.
Meeting 8:00 p.m.
MPHS
- 30 MPHS Jazz
Ensemble Visit, Gr. 5

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope you enjoyed a wonderful winter break with family and friends. December was a busy and festive month at LADSBS, filled with holiday celebrations and special events. Students participated in [Holiday Spirit Week](#) and enjoyed shopping at the PTO Holiday Shoppe. Our Grade 5 students also delighted families with an outstanding winter concert performance.

January offers a time to reflect on the past year while looking ahead to 2026. We encourage parents and students to take this opportunity to discuss how school has been going and to set goals for the new year. Whether the focus is improving in a specific subject area, reading more, strengthening math facts (multiplication or division), or establishing new routines, now is a great time to begin. At school, we will continue to keep parents informed about student progress and encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns. Open communication between home and school is essential and can often help address academic challenges as they arise. By working together, we can ensure a successful start to the new year both in and out of the classroom.

We are also excited to begin after-school clubs on January 13th. LADSBS teachers have provided a variety of engaging opportunities for students, and we encourage participation. Please note that student drop-off may take extra time during club days, and we appreciate your patience as we safely unload students. To help with this process, please ensure students exit from the passenger side of the vehicle near the cafeteria doors.

Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School STEAM Night will take place on January 7th. Students are invited to participate in hands-on, STEAM-related classroom activities such as Zip Lines, Egg Drops, Race Cars, Ozobots, and more. Each activity will be facilitated by LADSBS faculty members. Registration is open through January 5th and can be completed by [clicking here](#).

As we move into the colder months, please remember to send your child to school with appropriate winter clothing, including hats, gloves, and coats, as we will make every effort to hold outdoor recess. Additionally, please have childcare plans in place in the event that weather conditions require an early dismissal. While we strive to provide advance notice, weather-related decisions can sometimes occur quickly.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at STEAM Night and throughout the many exciting events ahead.



Third Grade Thoughts . . .

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a healthy and joyful holiday season. Our students have returned to school refreshed and ready to dive back into learning.

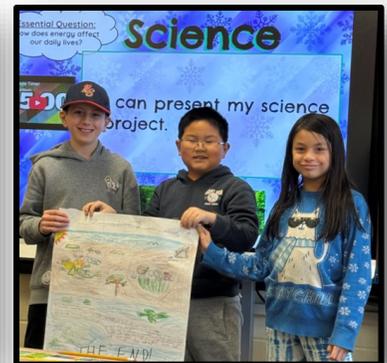
In Math, we are excited to begin Module 3. This unit focuses on exploring multiplication and division through units of 10. We will revisit the commutative property from Module 1 and dive deeper into the distributive and associative properties. As with many mathematical concepts, building a strong foundation is essential for future success. We encourage all students to practice their multiplication facts at home to strengthen their skills!

In Science, we are wrapping up our weather unit. Students have been learning about weather patterns, the water cycle, and tools used to measure rain. Hopefully, we'll have a chance to put our weather knowledge to the test with some snow this month!



Fourth Grade Focus . . .

The fourth-grade staff would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year! Our fourth graders have returned from vacation well-rested and ready to continue working hard.



For the first month of the year, our students will continue their learning of multi-digit math operations. They will focus on the very exciting skill of long division, as well as, improving their problem-solving strategies.

In ELA, our fourth grade classes will start the month working with a novel study. We will be reading, *Because of Winn Dixie*, by Kate DiCamillo. This is a wonderful story and fun read for the students to experience together.

Before the new year, we finished up our “Walk in the Park” science unit. We learned all about information processing. We will begin this year studying the Native American people of New York and how they have influenced the people, government, and society of our state.

We look forward to watching these fourth graders learn and grow in 2026!

Fifth Grade Flash . . .



December flew by in a whirlwind of holiday festivities, school spirit, and a wonderful mix of learning and laughter here at LADSBS, all leading up to our winter break! A major highlight of the month was the much-anticipated Gingerbread House Decorating event. Students had a blast designing and constructing their own gingerbread houses using colorful candies, frosting, and edible decorations. It was the perfect blend of teamwork, creativity, and holiday cheer, with each house showcasing the effort and imagination of our talented fifth graders. Additionally, students embraced holiday-themed writing activities, crafting stories about magical winter adventures and festive traditions.



In ELA, our fifth graders took a break from HMH to dive into the beautifully written novel, *Esperanza Rising*. Through the story of Esperanza Ortega, a young girl who faces immense challenges after a tragedy changes her life, students explored themes of resilience, hope, and personal growth. As they read, students analyzed how Esperanza transforms from a life of privilege to one of hardship, learning valuable lessons about overcoming adversity, the importance of family, and adapting to new circumstances. The novel also offered opportunities to discuss cultural heritage, empathy, and the significance of community during difficult times.



In math, students successfully completed Module 2, mastering multiplication and division of multi-digit numbers. They are now excited to begin learning how to add and subtract fractions, a skill that will further develop their understanding of number relationships and expand their mathematical abilities.

In addition, students explored the states of matter, studying solids, liquids, and gases through hands-on experiments and engaging activities. They investigated how matter changes states and the role temperature plays in these transformations. In social studies, students learned about early civ-

ilizations, exploring the rise of ancient cultures, their lasting contributions to modern society, and the journeys of early explorers.

As we move into the new year, we are excited about the many adventures and projects awaiting our fifth graders. Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our wonderful classroom community.





Holiday Spirit...

The hallways of LADSBS were filled with holiday spirit, laughter, and cheer throughout the week leading up to Winter Recess. Students and staff participated in a variety of festive themes, including favorite holiday colors, storybook characters, warm and cozy attire, and Pajama Day. As part of the celebration, students were also given golden tickets for the Laddie Express, adding an extra touch of excitement to the week. Thank you to all the parents and family members who visited classrooms to take part in holiday activities. We hope everyone continues to spread kindness as we welcome the new year ahead!



School Spirit . . .

Thank you to the Miller Place PTO for bringing the Holiday Shoppe to LADSBS! With the help of dedicated volunteers, students were guided in selecting and checking out their items while practicing independence and decision-making skills. The excitement was evident as students proudly brought home special gifts for their friends and families. We truly appreciate the time, effort, and generosity that made this meaningful holiday tradition possible for our school community.



Marvelous Math . . .

Ring in the New Year Fluent with your Math Facts!

What is Fluency?

Fluency is the ability to recall answers to math facts quickly and accurately without hesitation. Fact fluency is attained and maintained through continued practice.

Computer-Based Program to Increase Fluency

Reflex- Login information was provided to your student and should be accessible in their agenda. Reflex is a series of activities and games tailored to your student's individual math skills.

Engaging ways to Increase Fluency at Home

Get cooking in the kitchen! There are so many valuable teaching moments when you cook with your student. From counting the number of teaspoons, to making equivalent fractions if one measuring cup is dirty, or even doubling a recipe, the possibilities are endless. Make flashcards to practice whenever you have a few moments free or have a family game night and play board and card games!

Art-I-Facts. . .



A new art club is coming to LADSBS! The Textile Explorers Club introduces students to the wide range of careers within the textile industry, from fashion design, textile engineering, and surface design to sustainability, product development, merchandising, and manufacturing. Members choose hands-on projects that match their personal interests, much like a makerspace, allowing them to explore creative, technical, and problem-solving paths at their own pace.

Through experimentation and collaboration, students develop lifelong skills such as design thinking, craftsmanship, innovation, teamwork, and an understanding of how textiles impact everyday life and future careers. We're so excited to start creating!

Music Musings . . .



Our fifth grade students just wrapped up their Winter Concert, showcasing the hard work and dedication they have put into their music. The performance was a wonderful demonstration of their growth as musicians. Thank you to all who attended and supported our students.

Band The Fifth Grade Band students put on a fantastic concert last month during the LADSBS Winter Concert. The band students had a blast performing for their friends and family. They put in such hard work with countless hours of practicing both in and out of school. We are looking forward to beginning music for our next concert already. The fourth graders had a great time trying out some holiday tunes last month. They were excited to be able to perform for

their families during the holidays. We are working to get ready for the fourth grade recital which will take place in April.

General Music Happy New Year! January is all about setting new goals for our music making. In both fourth grade and fifth grade we will be working on singing and solfege (do-re-mi-..) reading as well as continuing to strengthen our abilities to read rhythms and understand musical expression. We will be learning how to sight read which is beneficial for learning all instrumental and vocal music going forward.

Fourth Grade Beginner Strings Fourth grade strings are doing wonderful things! We started working with the bows prior to break and they are improving with bowing their open strings. We will be focusing this month on playing songs with more notes and coordinating left and right hands to play. With the cold weather, please make sure to keep instruments in a room temperature location away from direct heat and out of cold cars.

Fifth Grade Chorus & Orchestra Congratulations to the Fifth Grade Chorus and Orchestra for their amazing performance at their concert. All of their hard work and dedication came through beautifully! Rehearsals will continue as normal in the morning until their Spring Concert. Students in both ensembles will be receiving new music in the next few weeks that will add new elements to their playing and singing!



Board of Education

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



Don't Forget . . .

When picking your child up from school, please remember to bring ID. The person sitting at the desk may be a substitute who does not know you and is required to see proper ID before releasing your child.

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

Miller Place UFSD Job Opportunities . . .

Part Time Aides

The Miller Place School District is actively recruiting Part-Time Aides to support students and staff across the district:

- Starting pay: \$1 above the minimum wage

Ideal for individuals who enjoy working with children, are dependable, and want to be part of a friendly school community.

How to Apply:

Fill out the "Application for Civil Service" form linked on the district's Employment Opportunities page. millerplace.k12.ny.us

Email your completed application (and résumé if you'd like) to personnel@millerplace.k12.ny.us. millerplace.k12.ny.us

Questions? Contact the District Personnel Office at 631-474-2700.



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