



# LADSBS News...



**Important March Dates:**

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

- 2 March Madness Begins
- 2 [Moving Up T-Shirt Order](#), Grade 5
- 5 Port Jeff Bowl  
Grade 3 Field Trip
- 8 Daylight Savings
- 11 Board of Education  
Budget Workshop #2
- 13 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Ends  
AMPS, LADSBS
- 16 The Power of Respect  
Assembly, Grade 5
- 16-20 [March Book  
Madness Spirit Week](#)
- 17 Permission slips due  
[Vanderbilt Museum](#)  
Grade 4 Field Trip
- 18 NCR Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Parent Orientation  
NCR Café, 6:00 p.m.
- 24 AMPS, LADSBS Report  
Card #2 Posted
- 24, 25 LADSBS Clubs End
- 25 Board of Ed Meeting  
Budget Workshop #3  
8:00 p.m., MPHS
- 26 Parent Teacher  
Conference Day,  
**No Student Attendance**  
**AMPS, LADSBS**
- 27 Athletes Helping Athletes  
Program, Grade 5
- 30 Permission Slips Due  
[Nissequogue River State  
Park Field Trip](#), Grade 5
- 30, 31 [LADSBS Spring  
Book Fair](#)
- 31 Grade 3 Family Connect  
Night, 5:30 p.m.  
LADSBS (snow date 4/1)

March is full of exciting events at LADSBS! Our March Book Madness Tournament is underway, with sixteen books competing for the title of “Book of the Year.” Students can access the Google Tournament page and book bracket through their Miller Place email. Each week, books face off as students read and vote for their favorites, and every title features a special “mystery reader” recording. We look forward to celebrating the winning book at the end of the month!

Our character education focus this month is compassion. Through classroom lessons, students will explore how compassion builds a supportive, understanding community. They will practice empathy, active listening, and simple ways to show kindness, especially during challenging times, helping to strengthen relationships in and out of the classroom.

Clubs will conclude on March 26<sup>th</sup>. After the final session, advisors will send a brief Google survey to gather your feedback. We truly appreciate you taking a few moments to share your thoughts.

The second trimester also ends on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will reach out regarding progress updates and parent conferences which will take place on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Please contact your child’s teacher with any questions or concerns.

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Detective Rivera from the Suffolk County Police Department will speak with students about “The Power of Respect: Understanding Hate, Kindness, and Standing Up for Others.” This message connects to our ongoing Kindness Challenge and we will now implement the 30-Second Challenge: *“If someone can’t change something about themselves in 30 seconds or less, don’t mention it. Your words have power—choose kindness.”*

We remain committed to supporting the whole child by providing meaningful learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom. As you explore this month’s newsletter, you’ll see how we are challenging students academically while nurturing their social and emotional growth. We encourage you to talk with your children about what they are learning and experiencing at LADSBS, and we sincerely thank you for your continued support!



## Fourth Grade Focus...

March is here, and we feel lucky every day to work with such curious and enthusiastic fourth graders! This month is full of exciting learning, hands-on experiences, and opportunities for students to grow as thinkers, readers, and problem-solvers.

Last month, our fourth graders had an unforgettable experience with the “Journeys into American Indian Territory” full-day workshop. Students explored a museum exhibit highlighting Native American culture, listened to traditional stories, and participated in educational games reflecting historical practices. They shaped clay pots, decorated wampum belts, and experienced Native American music, making meaningful connections to history through hands-on learning. This enriching program fostered cultural appreciation, creativity, and a deeper understanding of Indigenous traditions and contributions.



In math, we are working in Eureka Math Module 4: Geometry. Students are classifying two-dimensional figures, identifying parallel and perpendicular lines, and measuring angles with protractors. They are learning about acute, obtuse, and right angles while solving multi-step problems that connect geometry to real-world situations. Precise math language and reasoning remain a focus as students explain their thinking.

In reading, we are exploring *HMH Into Reading*, Module 3, which features stories around discovery, perseverance, and understanding the world. Students read a mix of realistic fiction, historical fiction, and informational texts, practicing skills like identifying theme, analyzing characters, summarizing details, and recognizing text structures. They also work on determining main ideas, making inferences with text evidence, comparing texts, and analyzing vocabulary in context. Close reading and citing evidence continue to strengthen comprehension and confidence.

For writing, students are immersed in our biography unit, researching notable individuals and organizing information into structured, informative pieces. They focus on introductions, logically ordered paragraphs, and strong conclusions, while adding facts, dates, and important life events. This unit builds research skills and helps students see how individuals can make an impact on the world.

In science, we continue our energy unit through the BOCES science program, “*Powering Through the Fair.*” Students explore mechanical, electrical, light, and sound energy through experiments and hands-on challenges, learning how energy is transferred and transformed. This unit encourages inquiry, problem-solving, and collaboration as students apply scientific concepts to real-world scenarios.

Thank you for your continued support as we enjoy a wonderful month of learning, creativity, and growth in fourth grade!

## Third Grade Thoughts . . .

It is hard to believe that March is already here! This is a busy and exciting month for third grade. We have begun to work on Area in math and are relating it to multiplication and division. We will then start to explore Fractions and will spend a great deal of time exploring the ins and outs of fractions and how they are used in our world, as well as comparing them to each other. In Science, we are learning all about Forces and how they affect our world. We are doing a lot of exciting experiments exploring Forces.



We are deep into our *HMH Into Reading* program. We are beginning to explore Stories and Plays, which is very interactive and exciting for our students. We are also continuing to produce various writing pieces to add to our end of the year writing portfolio.

This year we will be participating in our School-Wide March Madness Reading Contest and are very excited to see which books make the final cut! On March 31<sup>st</sup>, we will be having our Grade 3 Family Connect evening event, and our third graders, along with a parent, will get a chance to read Fairy Tales from around the globe and “visit” a variety of countries through literature. Information about the event will be going out to families soon! This will connect nicely to our Social Studies units, where we are exploring cultures around the world and comparing them to our culture here in the USA. We will also be attending a field trip to Port Jeff Bowl on March 5<sup>th</sup> to explore how forces play a part in bowling. We will be doing some St. Patrick’s Day activities to welcome spring as well!

## Fifth Grade Flash . . .

What an exciting month February has been! We enjoyed many meaningful events and learning experiences. We celebrated African American History Month by honoring and researching the countless African American figures who have helped shape history. We were also privileged to attend a powerful and moving presentation by Rohan Murphy, a nationally recognized motivational speaker, who shared his personal story and spoke about dedication, overcoming adversity, and perseverance.



Our fifth graders continued to foster kindness by celebrating Kindness Spirit Week in conjunction with P.S. I Love You Day. Additionally, our classes welcomed Miller Place High School athletes for the second visit of our *Athletes Helping Athletes* program, which introduces our fifth-grade students to high school role models who work with them to inspire teamwork, leadership, and encouragement.

In Math, students are working on Module 4, which focuses on multiplying and dividing fractions and decimal fractions. In ELA, fifth graders continue to explore a variety of genres through the *HMH Into Reading* modules. They are strengthening their reading skills while applying comprehension strategies across all texts. In Social Studies, students have been learning about the Columbian Exchange and the significance of the Age of Exploration. They also explored the Transatlantic Slave Trade and examined the impact European explorers had on the lands they encountered. In Science, fifth graders began their new BOCES science unit, *Got Water*. Throughout this unit, students will investigate Earth’s spheres and their interactions through hands-on experiments and data collection in science journals.

It has been wonderful to see how much our students continue to grow and learn each day. We are looking forward to a marvelous month of March!



# Kindness Corner . . .

Last month, we proudly celebrated the spirit of kindness through our district-wide participation in “P.S. I Love You Day”. This special event brought our students and staff together in a powerful show of unity, as we worked to spread love, kindness, and support throughout our school community.

During our themed **Spirit Week**, students and staff enthusiastically took part in activities designed to encourage positive interactions, thoughtful acts of kindness, and a strong sense of belonging. From uplifting messages and classroom discussions to collaborative projects and schoolwide displays of support, each day reinforced the importance of compassion and connection.



It was truly heartwarming to witness the way our school community embraced this message. The energy, empathy, and encouragement shared throughout the week created an atmosphere where kindness was not only encouraged but clearly felt.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this week so meaningful and memorable. We are incredibly proud of the connections that were strengthened and the positive impact that was made. We look forward to continuing to foster a culture of kindness in all that we do.

Congratulations to our February Kindness Coupon Raffle winners:

*Jacob Negrin, Charlie Ratzke, Cruz Braun, Stella Fallica, Madelyn Dancause, StellaRae Pancir*

Thank you all for keeping up the kindness!



## Music Musings . . .

**Fourth & Fifth Grade Band** The Fourth Grade Band students are putting the finishing touches on their recital songs. It has been such a fun challenge working on playing as a group and listening to all members of their lessons. The beginner band recital will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> and our students are so excited. The Fifth Grade Band students are working hard to make sure that their songs sound good. We have been working on making a balanced band and playing as a team. There are a lot of fun playing opportunities coming up as we get further along in the school year.

**Fifth Grade Chorus** Our Fifth Grade Chorus continues to improve on their vocal technique and ensemble skills! This month, we've focused on enhancing our collective sound by further developing blend and balance. We have been strengthening our sound and adding harmonies to our pieces. They are creating a more cohesive and polished sound, and we're excited to see how these refinements will come to life in their next performance.

**Fifth Grade Orchestra** The Fifth Grade Orchestra is advancing in their ability to perform as a unified ensemble. Students have been working on connecting as an ensemble through listening across the ensemble, watching the conductor, and keeping steady beats on their own. We have been working on techniques such as vibrato and bowing to create a clearer tone. They are reading music beautifully and able to perform larger amounts of music more easily and watching themselves become strong young musicians!

**Fourth Grade Orchestra** The Fourth Grade Orchestra has improved drastically in their technique and musicianship! As they continue to perfect their bowing and finger placement, we have been working on their songs for their upcoming recital in April. Please be on the lookout for more information about our upcoming recital going home with the students. The growth in their confidence and sound is evident, and we are excited to watch them showcase their musicality very soon!

**General Music** In General Music, we are celebrating Music In Our Schools Month where the students will be working to find music in their lives and as a part of our school community. We will also be taking part in a March Madness Music Bracket, where students will be listening to songs in many different styles to figure out the top song and style for each class.

## School Spirit . . .

In honor of our LADSBS "**March Book Madness**" competition, we will be having a spirit week to celebrate reading. Please join us in dressing up for each theme!



**Monday, 3/16: Read a T-Shirt Day**

Wear a fun shirt with words on it

**Tuesday, 3/17: Lucky to Love Reading**

Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day & wear the color green

**Wednesday, 3/18: Book Character Day**

Dress up as your favorite book character

**Thursday, 3/19: Reading JOGS the Mind**

Wear exercise clothes

**Friday, 3/20: Pajama Day**

Wear pajamas and cozy up with a book



# Family Fun . . .



A huge thank you to the LADSBS School Improvement Team for their dedication and hard work in organizing exciting events for our students and families. Last month, we hosted an Escape Room event for our fourth graders, where students had a blast exploring the building at night during a thrilling scavenger hunt. As they worked together to solve challenging math problems in each room, they unlocked clues to help rescue the penguins and escape in time. To celebrate their success, students posed for fun photos at the Escape Room photo booth, creating a memorable keepsake from an evening filled with teamwork, problem-solving, and excitement!



# Art-I-Facts . . .

In art class, our students are learning how artists from different cultures and time periods share their stories through creativity!

Third grade is exploring the vibrant art of the Harlem Renaissance, creating colorful collages inspired by its music, poetry, and powerful imagery. Fourth grade is making exciting Fire Horse mixed media pieces inspired by the traditions of the Chinese zodiac, combining painting and texture to bring their artwork to life. Fifth grade has begun working on ancient Chinese landscape scrolls inspired by art from the Song Dynasty, learning how artists used ink, space, and nature to create peaceful, detailed scenes. By studying different cultures through art, students discover new perspectives and celebrate the beauty of our diverse world!





## Club Corner . . .

We will be wrapping up the final few weeks of morning clubs during the month of March, with our last meetings taking place on March 25<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup>. This year, our clubs have focused on a wide variety of interests such as sports, arts, digital and academic subjects, community service and much more. Thank you to all of our parents for providing morning transportation and for all of your support!



We are incredibly proud of our students for their enthusiasm, commitment, and willingness to try new activities. Morning clubs have been a wonderful opportunity for students to build friendships, develop new skills, and strengthen their sense of community within our school. A special thank you as well to our dedicated staff members who generously gave their time and energy to make these experiences possible. We look forward to offering more engaging opportunities next year!

## School Spirit . . .

We were honored to welcome Rohan Murphy to speak with our students and share his powerful and inspiring story. Rohan Murphy is an American Paralympian, wrestler, and motivational speaker. Born without legs, Rohan never allowed his circumstances to define or limit him. Instead, he chose to pursue his dreams with determination and resilience.



During his visit, he spoke about the hard work and dedication it took to become a competitive wrestler, training and competing against other athletes, earning a spot on Penn State University's wrestling team, and even appearing in a Nike commercial. His journey is a true testament to perseverance and self-belief.

Rohan encouraged our students to believe in themselves, work hard, and always strive to do their best. He reminded them that with effort and determination, they can go from good to great. His message demonstrated that real strength comes not just from physical ability, but from a positive attitude, courage, and the commitment to never give up.

## Board of Education

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



## Don't Forget . . .

*Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> —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**

## Reminders . . .

- Please be certain that any person picking your child up from school has consent from you in the form of a written note and brings their driver's license for identification purposes.
- As a reminder, please refrain from parking in designated handicapped spots without the proper parking tag during drop off and pick up in both the front and rear of the building.



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