



## LADSBS News...



### Important April Dates:

- 1 Vanderbilt Planetarium Field Trip, Grade 4
- 2 Autism Acceptance & Awareness Spirit Day
- 2 The Space Roadshow Assembly, all grades
- 3-10 Spring Recess, Schools Closed
- 13 ALS Ride for Life Assembly, Grade 3
- 14 LADSBS Beginner Orchestra Recital, 6:30 p.m., MPHS
- 15,16 [Spring Pictures](#), LADSBS
- 15-17 Nissequogue River State Park Field Trip, Grade 5
- 16 LADSBS Beginner Band Recital, 6:30 p.m., MPHS
- 17 [Grade 5 Moving Up T-Shirt Orders Due](#)
- 21, 22 NYS ELA Assessment
- 24 MPHS Financial Literacy Workshop, Grade 3
- 27 Meet the Instruments, Grade 3, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 28 LADSBS Art Show 5:00-7:00 p.m., Café
- 29 Board of Education Meeting 8:00 p.m. MPHS
- 29 NYS Science Assessment, Gr. 5
- 30 [LADSBS Yearbook Orders](#) Due
- 30 [LADSBS Clean-Up Day](#) Sign-Ups

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

#### **Welcome to Spring!**

As we head into this busy time of year, I will continue to keep you informed about upcoming activities and events. Our team has been hard at work planning field trips, end-of-year celebrations, moving-up ceremonies, and Field Day. Please keep an eye out for additional details in the coming weeks.

We recently concluded our building-wide “March Book Madness Tournament,” in which [Salt In His Shoes](#) took the title of Book of the Year! It was wonderful to see students so engaged, excited, and talking enthusiastically about books and reading.

April is Autism Acceptance, Action, and Awareness Month, an important opportunity to celebrate and support our community. Throughout the month, hearts will be displayed around the school as a symbol of inclusion. Additionally, Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School will host a Spirit Day on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, to promote inclusion and show support for the autism community. On this day, students are encouraged to wear tie-dye or bright/rainbow colors. Just like a rainbow, every person is unique and brings valuable strengths and perspectives to our community. Wearing bright colors is a meaningful way to show support for autism acceptance, inclusion, and understanding.

Our Grade 4 Beginner Orchestra Recital will take place on April 14<sup>th</sup>, and the Grade 4 Beginner Band Recital will follow on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Both concerts will be held at the Miller Place High School Auditorium and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

We are also excited to host the LADSBS Art Show on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00–7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. A piece of artwork from every student in grades 3–5 will be on display for your enjoyment. Additional information will be shared soon.

As spring weather allows for more outdoor recess time, this becomes an important opportunity for students to play, socialize, and unwind. We encourage you to speak with your children about the importance of kindness and inclusion so that everyone can enjoy this time together.

## Fifth Grade Flash...



March was an exciting month filled with engaging activities! Our students participated in “March Book Madness” (the masked reader version) and enjoyed dressing up for Spirit Week. We also celebrated Women’s History Month, recognizing the incredible contributions of women throughout history and today.

In Math, our fifth graders worked on multiplying and dividing fractions and decimal fractions as part of our pilot of the new Eureka Squared curriculum. We will continue this work into April before beginning our unit on volume and

area of figures and shapes.

In ELA, students began reading the novel, *Hatchet*, by Gary Paulsen, for their new novel study. This is an exciting story that really gets the kids making predictions and wondering what will come next. Outside of our novel, we have also continued to engage with various genres in our *HMH Into Reading* modules. Through both, our fifth graders have continued to strengthen their comprehension skills.

In Science, students learned about Earth’s spheres and how they interact in our *Got Water* BOCES science unit. As we move forward, we will begin preparing for the science assessment by reviewing key concepts from both the current and previous years.

In Social Studies, we have begun to learn how geography impacts the economic development of countries in the Western Hemisphere. Students are focusing on how diverse physical characteristics influence where people live, how they earn a living, and their daily lives.

March has truly been an incredible month filled with exciting events and memorable moments. It was the fifth graders’ last visit from our high school athletes. Students have learned so much from this wonderful program. A special thank you to all of our high school athletes that took the time to come and teach life lessons to our fifth graders.



On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Detective Rivera from the Suffolk County Police Department spoke with our Grade 5 students about *The Power of Respect: Understanding Hate, Kindness, and Standing Up for Others*. During the presentation, Detective Rivera explained the difference between being an upstander and a bystander, and introduced the “30-Second Challenge”: if someone cannot change something about themselves in 30 seconds or less, it should not be mentioned. Students reflected on the importance of kindness and respect, and made a commitment to support one another and be upstanding members of the Miller Place community.

As we approach the final months of the school year, it is amazing to see how much our students are learning and growing each day. April will be a busy month—please be sure to order a [5<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up T-Shirt](#) and [LADSBS Yearbook](#) as soon as possible. We hope you and your family have a fun and relaxing Spring Break!

## Third Grade Thoughts . . .

Happy April! Now that Spring is here, we are able to enjoy the warmer weather along with the many exciting things that are happening in third grade. The “March Book Madness” competition was a huge success! The students loved having the chance to hear wonderful books and vote on their favorite in hopes that it would be the big winner. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, third graders were able to come back to school in the evening for our *Spring Into Reading Family Fun Night*. Students were able to travel to different countries in the world, listen to a story, then complete a craft to take home. LADSBS was filled with many smiling faces!

This month, we are working on fractions in Math, spending time gaining a strong understanding of the concept. We will also begin to work on collecting and displaying data with graphing. In Social Studies, we will be focusing on Nigeria, comparing Nigeria to the United States of America. In connection to our *Invisible Forces* science unit, we went on a field trip to Port Jeff Bowling Alley in March. A great time was had by all. We will be starting our Butterfly unit soon which is an exciting unit for the students. They will have the opportunity to watch butterflies go through their life cycle right in the classroom. We are full steam ahead in ELA, continuing our journey exploring stories and plays and our students are loving it!

The New York State ELA Assessment is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the NYS Math Assessment is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. We are continuing to reinforce concepts that have been covered throughout the year as well as introduce new ones through our daily lessons.

Now that the warmer weather is here, we are able to enjoy recess as well as some class time outside. Enjoy the sunshine!



## Fourth Grade Focus . . .



As spring begins to arrive, our classroom is buzzing with new learning and exciting projects. The longer days and warmer weather have brought lots of energy into our classroom, and students have been working hard across all subject areas.

In reading, we are currently working in *HMH Into Reading* Module 4. Students are practicing important comprehension strategies such as identifying theme, analyzing characters, and using text evidence to support their thinking. We are also continuing to build vocabulary and discussion skills as we explore a variety of engaging texts together.

In writing, students are working on biographies as they prepare for our upcoming Wax Museum. Each student is researching an important figure and learning how to organize their information into clear paragraphs that describe the person’s life, accomplishments, and impact. We are excited to see students bring their historical figures to life during this special project.

In Math, we are currently working in Eureka Math Module 5, where our focus is on fractions. Students are learning how to compare fractions, create equivalent fractions, and represent fractions using visual models and number lines. They are also practicing explaining their mathematical thinking as they solve problems.

In Science, we recently wrapped up our Energy Unit. Students explored different forms of energy, how energy moves, and the ways energy can change from one form to another. In Social Studies, we have begun learning about New York State government. Students are exploring how the state government works, the roles of the different branches, and how decisions and laws are made within our state.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support at home. We look forward to an exciting and productive spring season in fourth grade!



## Field Trip Fun...

Our Grade 3 field trip to Port Jefferson Bowling Alley was a fun and exciting adventure! Students were eager to try something new and spend time with friends outside of the classroom. There were plenty of laughs, high-fives, and moments of friendly competition as everyone cheered one another on.



This trip was not only enjoyable, but also connected to our science unit on motion and force. As students rolled bowling balls down the lane, they saw firsthand how force affects motion. They explored how speed and the angle of release can influence how many pins are knocked down, and applied concepts such as velocity, friction, and momentum. It was a wonderful opportunity to see science in action while having a great time with classmates!

## March Madness

The results are in! It was a great matchup between *Salt In His Shoes* (read by the Giraffe) and *Jerry Changed the Game* (read by the Dinosaur), with both readers doing an outstanding job bringing their stories to life! However, with 71% of the school-wide vote, the winner of our 2026 March Book Madness Tournament is... *Salt In His Shoes* (read by the Giraffe). Our runner-up masked reader (behind the Dinosaur), was Mrs. Shaw, fourth grade teacher, and our champion masked reader (behind the Giraffe), was Mrs. McKay, third grade teacher.

### *Congratulations to our March Book Madness Prediction Contest Raffle Winners:*

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Reese Proctor & Benjamin Branca

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Oluoma Achodo & Brycen Millsap

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Devon Dunn & Logan Weigel





## Club Corner...

The month of March brought an end to our morning clubs, but we hope students continue to enjoy all of the new interests and hobbies that they discovered. We had approximately 210 students participate this year and could not have done it without your support!



## Math Matters...

Things have been busy in the MTSS math classrooms! We have been really putting a strong focus on building fluency with multiplication and division facts. Playing games, reciting songs, writing out the facts, and spending time on Reflex Math are all great ways to work on making those facts really stick.

Our third graders have been becoming experts in solving Area problems. They have practiced by drawing models as well as solving using a standard algorithm. In fourth grade we have been using those multiplication and division skills to solve some tricky word problems. Understanding how numbers work has really helped to prepare them for the fractions unit that we will be jumping into next. In fifth grade we continue to work through fraction word problems as well. We have done a lot of work with adding and subtracting fractions and whole numbers.

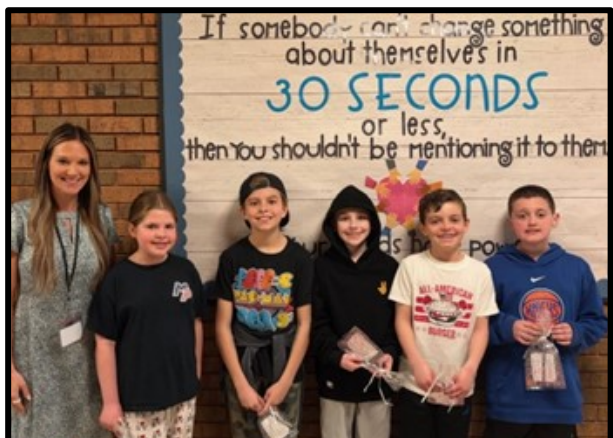
Remember to talk about fractions at home! Baking and cooking are great opportunities to work with fractions. Even talking about how many slices of pizza your family will need lends itself to fraction discussions! Numbers are all around- ask your child where they notice fractions and numbers in everyday life!

## Kindness Corner...

Congratulations to our March Kindness Coupon Raffle winners:

*Juliana Albino, Teagan Hempfling,  
Matthew McCarthy, Darren Zuccarello,  
John Ferro, Gabby Vogel*

Thank you all for keeping up the kindness!



## Music Musings . . .

**Fifth Grade Chorus: Two Parts Become One** Our Fifth Grade Chorus continues to shine as they refine their vocal technique and ensemble skills. This month, students have been improving on singing in two-parts, or in harmony. Through discovering these harmonies, we are developing individual ear training and vocal independence to create a full and powerful choral sound that highlights their voices.

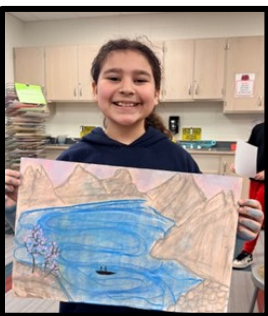
**Fifth Grade Orchestra: Strengthening Ensemble Coordination** The Fifth Grade Orchestra is intently working on listening across sections and becoming a unified ensemble. We have been focusing on our intonation and tuning, reviewing ways that we can use our instrumental technique in both hands to create clear and full sounds. Our Fifth Grade Orchestra is blending beautifully as we watch our concert program come to life. We would also like to congratulate Korben Manfre, violin, who was selected for and performed in the SCMEA All County Division I East Orchestra this past March!

**Fourth Grade Orchestra: Becoming Performance Ready** The Fourth Grade Orchestra is recital ready! They are growing confidently as performers, refining their recital pieces, and learning performance techniques and etiquette that add to the beautiful music they are making. Our Fourth Graders are very excited to share their hard work and dedication in their Beginner String Recital on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Miller Place High School. We hope to see you there!

**General Music: Classroom Instruments and Reading Music** In General Music, each grade is focusing on a different unit that is expanding upon their musicianship and music literacy skills. Fourth Grade students of Ms. Rowburrey are strumming along in their ukulele unit. We are learning the parts and strings of the ukulele, working on our beginner strumming techniques and even learning a few basic chords that can be strung together to create songs. Fifth Grade students are expanding their music history skills, learning different periods of music history as well as composers that have shaped the formation of music!

**Fourth & Fifth Grade Band:** The Fourth Grade Band students are so excited that their recital is later this month. We have worked hard to put together these songs and we can not wait to share a night of music with you all. The Fourth Grade Band recital will be on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Miller Place High School. The Fifth Grade Band been working very hard on their concert pieces. We just added a fourth piece to our concert collection and this has been a very exciting addition! As we get closer to the end of the year we are working on more advanced techniques like dynamics, articulation, and blend. We hope you hear amazing improvements at home practicing!

## Art-I-Facts...



Students across multiple grade levels have been diving into exciting artistic explorations as we prepare for the upcoming art show on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Third graders have been studying composition in a creative way by arranging a gear-themed painting. Through this hands-on approach, they are learning how placement, balance, and spacing can transform a piece of art into a dynamic visual experience.

In fourth grade, classes have been filled with color and imagination as students explore the playful, expressive characters inspired by contemporary artist Takashi Murakami. Their work reflects joy, creativity, and a growing confidence in personal artistic style.

Fifth graders have been sharpening their technical skills through detailed grid drawings, carefully translating images with precision and focus. At the same time, they are exploring the beauty of a traditional Chinese landscape, blending observation with cultural appreciation.



EVERY STUDENT MATTERS ... EVERY MOMENT COUNTS!

## NYS Testing Reminder...

### Board of Education

**Lisa Reitan, President**

**Bryan Makarius, Vice President**

**John Galligan, Trustee**

**Jennifer Keller, Trustee**

**Andrea Spaniolas, Trustee**

NYS Grades 3-8

ELA, Math and Science Assessments are approaching.

ELA—April 21<sup>st</sup>—22<sup>nd</sup>

Science (Gr. 5 only) —April 27<sup>th</sup>

Math—May 5<sup>th</sup>—6<sup>th</sup>

**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 Casey, Director of Facilities**

**Jeremy Koch, Director for Pupil Personnel Services**



## LADSBS Field Day 2026...

The LADSBS Field Day will take place on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> (rain date of May 21<sup>st</sup>). Parents are welcome to attend and cheer on their children as they compete in various games against other classes. To help you plan, please note the scheduled times for each grade level. We hope you can join us to support the students!

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1:10 - 2:40 p.m.**

Parking can be found in the lower lot between AMPS and LADSBS or the upper lot between LADSBS and NCR. We can't wait for a day filled with excitement and fun!



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