



# LADSBS News...



## Important May Dates:

- 1 Puberty Program, Grade 5
- 5 Budget Hearing, 7:00 p.m., MPHS
- 5,6 NYS Math Assessment
- 6 Incoming Parent 3rd Grade Orientation, 6:00 p.m. LADSBS Cafe
- 7 LADSBS Clean Up Day
- 8 LADSBS Drama Production, "Frozen Kids", 7:00 p.m., MPHS
- 9 LADSBS Drama Production, "Frozen Kids", 4:00 p.m., MPHS
- 11 NYS Science Assessment, Grade 5
- 11-12 Grade 4 Historical Walking Tour (Rain date: May 13)
- 14 Long Island Aquarium Field Trip, Grade 3
- 19 **Budget Vote**, NCR 6:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.
- 20 LADSBS Field Day (Raindate 5/21)
- 25 Memorial Day Weekend Schools Closed
- 28 Summer Reading Program Library Visit, All Grades

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

As we welcome the spring season, we're excited to share the many fun and enriching events we have planned for our students and families. Highlights include Field Day, concerts, and upcoming field trips that provide opportunities for learning, teamwork, and lasting memories. We had a wonderful time celebrating Cleanup Day and are looking forward to Give Back Day, both of which encourage our students to demonstrate kindness, responsibility, and community spirit while supporting their social, emotional, and academic growth.

As the school year winds down, excitement naturally builds throughout the building. Still, it's important to remember that these final months are a critical time for learning and growth. Students often make meaningful academic and personal progress during this period, so we greatly appreciate your continued support in helping them stay focused, prepared, and engaged each day. Working together as partners makes a tremendous difference in student success. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions, concerns, or updates.

We've also been busy planning end-of-year field trips, ceremonies, and celebrations to recognize our students' hard work and accomplishments. Congratulations to our talented fourth-grade musicians on their wonderful concert performance, as well as to our fifth-grade cast and crew for their fantastic production of *Frozen Kids*! We are incredibly proud of the dedication, confidence, and creativity our students demonstrated on stage. We're also looking forward to the upcoming fifth-grade spring concert, which is sure to be another special event for our school community.

In addition, our annual Art Show, held in the cafeteria, was a tremendous success and showcased beautiful artwork created by every student in the school. Families and staff enjoyed seeing the creativity, imagination, and effort reflected in each piece. What a terrific celebration of the arts and our students' many talents!

As always, thank you for your continued partnership, support, and involvement in our school community. Together, we are helping our students learn, grow, and thrive each day.

Wishing you and your family a joyful, inspiring, and memorable spring season!

## Third Grade Thoughts . . .

May is an exciting month for our third graders! They have been enjoying learning about Nigeria in Social Studies. They learned about Nigeria's geography and will continue to learn more about their culture. Students have also been learning about fractions and will move into graphing in math. They will continue to enjoy reading stories in our HMH books and writing in different genres. This month we will begin learning about caterpillars and butterflies and we will be taking our second field trip to the Riverhead Aquarium. We are all excited to visit the butterfly house and see all the animals.



Try to enjoy the beautiful month of May and the beginning of warm weather by reading with your child outside. You may also want to explore all the pretty plants "popping up" around you.

We would like to thank the Service Club for putting together Clean Up Day to help make our school even more beautiful. We are all very excited for Field Day towards the end of the month. May is National Teacher Month! Don't forget to thank your teachers during the month of May.



## Fifth Grade Flash .

Spring brought lots of energy into our classroom this April! From engaging lessons to meaningful discussions and hands-on activities, our class stayed focused and motivated as we continued to grow as learners.

Academically, students remained engaged, worked hard, and continued to make great progress in all areas. In math, we wrapped up our unit on multiplying and dividing fractions and decimal fractions. Looking ahead, we will begin learning about area and volume, using hands-on materials to help deepen students' understanding of concepts like cubic units.

In ELA, we finished reading our second page-turning novel, Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen. Students were captivated by Brian's journey and his fight for survival in the wilderness. We also celebrated National Poetry Month by exploring and writing a variety of poems during writing.

In Science, we concluded our "Got Water?" unit, where students learned about Earth's spheres, how they interact, and how humans impact them in both positive and negative ways. In social studies, we began learning about the geography of the Western Hemisphere.

Thank you for your continued support as we enjoy a wonderful time of learning, creativity, and growth in fifth grade. We are looking forward to the many exciting events planned for May!



## Fourth Grade Focus . . .

As spring continues to arrive, our classroom is staying busy with meaningful learning and exciting new units. 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 9. Students are continuing to strengthen their comprehension skills as they read a variety of engaging texts. We are working on analyzing text closely, identifying key ideas, and supporting our thinking with evidence from the text while also continuing to grow vocabulary and discussion skills.

In writing, students are working on persuasive writing. They are learning how to clearly state their opinions, support their ideas with reasons and evidence, and organize their writing into well-structured paragraphs. Students are also focusing on strengthening their ability to explain their thinking and persuade their audience effectively. Our fourth grade students have also been working on biographies, and we are excited to see how they are bringing their historical figures to life during our special Wax Museum projects!



In math, we are currently working in Eureka Math Module 6, where students are developing their understanding of decimal fractions. Students are learning how to read, compare, and represent decimals, as well as how decimals relate to fractions. They are also strengthening problem-solving skills and explaining their mathematical thinking as they work with place value and decimal operations.

In social studies, we are following the Nassau BOCES New York State Government unit. Students are learning how state government is structured, including the roles of different branches and how laws are created and carried out within New York State.

In science, we have begun the BOCES 4 Science Earth Processes unit. Students are exploring how Earth's surface changes over time through natural processes, including weathering, erosion, and other Earth system interactions.

Looking ahead, in May we are excited for our walking tour field trip to the Historical Society of Miller Place, where students will have the opportunity to connect their learning to local history in a meaningful and engaging way.

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

## Financial Literacy Month . . .

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the halls of Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School buzzed with excitement as high school business students stepped into the role of teachers, leading an engaging and interactive financial literacy lesson for third-grade classes. In a fun and energetic twist, the lesson transformed elementary students into “Financial Literacy Superheroes.”



Our high schoolers—enrolled in Introduction to Business & Finance, College Accounting, and members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)—designed a hands-on experience to teach the basics of budgeting. Through a creative simulation, the third graders earned “income” by completing a financial terms worksheet. They then learned how to deposit their earnings into a mock bank and used their remaining funds to make purchasing decisions—all while staying within a budget.

The goal? To celebrate April’s Financial Literacy Month and help students collect enough smart spending habits and budgeting knowledge to “power up” and become Financial Literacy Superheroes. After completing their budgeting missions, each student proudly wore a superhero mask and name tag featuring their new financial persona—names like “Supersaver” and “Captain Cash”—symbolizing their newfound money smarts.

The activity not only instilled lifelong money management skills in the younger students, but also gave high schoolers a real-world opportunity to apply their business knowledge in a teaching environment. The collaboration between age groups showcased the power of peer-led education and emphasized the importance of financial literacy from an early age.

By the end of the day, both the high school business leaders and the third-grade superheroes walked away empowered—ready to take on the world, one smart financial decision at a time.

## Kindness Corner . . .

Our monthly Kindness Coupon winners have gone above and beyond to spread positivity, support their peers, and create a welcoming environment. Keep up the great work—we have one more month of school for a chance to win a prize and token for our book vending machine. More importantly, we hope you remember that your kindness makes a difference every day!

Congratulations to our  
May Kindness Coupon Raffle winners!



*Joey Jerome, Grace Georges, Layla Levins,  
Celene Chaput, Jonathan Lee, Michael Ingenito*

## Field Trip Fun . . .

Fifth graders traveled to Nissequogue River State Park to deepen their understanding of ecosystems, animal adaptations, and the interdependence of living organisms. Through guided discussions, students explored how the physical features of different species are shaped by their environments. They also learned about various animals, their habitats, and their diets, with a focus on the diverse plants and wildlife found in Long Island's natural habitats.

During the trip, students participated in hands-on, small-group activities in which they designed and created a model of a new species capable of surviving within a specific habitat and diet. This activity reinforced the relationship between structure, function, and environment. Overall, these field trips provided meaningful opportunities for students to connect classroom learning to real-world experiences.



Grade 4 visited the Planetarium at The Vanderbilt. Students took a tour of the night sky through an interactive, live star talk, shown in the dome theater. Through the *We Are Guardians* program, students took a journey into, under, and around the many ecosystems across our planet. They learned about how with the help of satellites and scientific study, we can understand the links between human activities and climate change and what we can do to work together to improve the health of our shared home. This was a very exciting day for our fourth grade students and it certainly was a trip to remember.



There are still plenty of field trips to come before we wrap up the school year! This month, our fourth graders are looking forward to visiting the Miller Place Historical Society for a walking tour, followed by a sweet treat at McNulty's Ice Cream Parlor. Also this month, our third graders will explore the Long Island Aquarium, and our fifth-grade, soon-to-be graduates will celebrate their final days at LADSBS with an exciting trip to Urban Air in Lake Grove, along with a yearbook breakfast in June.

# Art-I-Facts . . .

The LADSBS Art Show was a huge success, with a fantastic turnout from families and community members. The cafeteria was filled with an impressive variety of artwork, showcasing the creativity and talent of our young student artists. Pieces such as realistic food sculptures, cityscapes, self-portraits and photorealistic animals caught the attention of viewers and displayed the wide variety of mediums the students get to work with. It was truly inspiring to see so many pieces on display, each reflecting hard work, originality and imagination.



*A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who came out and supported our budding artists!*



# Music Musings . . .

## Fourth Grade Orchestra: Celebrating Accomplishments

After their exciting beginner recital, our Fourth Grade Orchestra students have been hard at work building on their foundational skills to get ready for Fifth Grade Orchestra. Congratulations to all the fourth grade students who performed in such a wonderful recital in April. In lessons, they've been refining their bowing techniques, learning more complex rhythms, and practicing new scales and finger patterns. With growing confidence, they're tackling new and more advanced music. We're so proud of their progress and can't wait to see how they continue to grow next year!

## Fifth Grade Orchestra: Adding Finishing Touches

Our Fifth Grade Orchestra is getting ready for their big concert and putting the final touches on their music. These young musicians have been working hard in rehearsals, practicing diligently outside of school and have been going above and beyond to prepare for their concert. They've shown great teamwork and dedication, and their music is really coming together! We're so proud of their progress and can't wait for everyone to hear them play at their concert on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at North Country Road Middle School!

## Fourth & Fifth Grade Band

After months of hardwork and practice the fourth grade students did a fantastic job at their recital last month. The students had such a great time playing in front of their friends and families and are already looking forward to fifth grade so they can have more concerts. The Fifth Grade Band students are looking forward to their concert next month on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are putting our finishing touches on our pieces and believe that you are all going to be blown away with the incredible progress they have made since December. In April we had 17 members of the fourth and fifth grade band perform at NYSSMA. They all did such a fantastic job and we are so proud of them all!

## Fifth Grade Chorus: Blending as an Ensemble

The Fifth Grade Chorus has been hard at work preparing for their upcoming concert, focusing especially on blending their voices and shaping their sound as a unified group. Through focused rehearsals, students have been learning how to listen closely to one another, match tone quality, and follow dynamic markings to bring their music to life. Their dedication and teamwork are truly shining through as they grow more confident and expressive with each rehearsal.

# School Spirit . . .

Our School Improvement Team's ROAR initiative continues to inspire positivity throughout LADSBS! During the month of April, we recognized students that were nominated by teachers and staff for consistently demonstrating "A—Acts of Kindness". We are proud to celebrate these students for leading by example and showing what it truly means to ROAR!



**Board of Education**



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

**Save the Dates...**

- *Fifth Grade Moving Up June 15<sup>th</sup>*
- *Fifth Grade Urban Air Field Trip June 16<sup>th</sup>*
- *Fifth Grade Yearbook Breakfast (students only) June 12<sup>th</sup>.*
- *1/2 Day K-5 for Students June 24<sup>th</sup> and June 25<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 of Pupil Personnel Services**

**Helpful Hints...**

- With the warmer weather coming upon us soon, our Lost & Found items are piling up! Please check for any sweatshirts, jackets, water bottles, etc. that your child may have misplaced and ask them to check out the lost & found items located in the cafeteria.
- Please help us keep all students safe by reinforcing the rule that cell phones are not to be "on or out" at any time during our school day, including bus rides. Any student who has an emergency should come to the office or nurse where access to a phone will be provided and the proper guidance from an adult will be employed.



**Field Day Reminder...**

Wednesday, May 20 (Raindate: 5/21)

**Fifth Grade: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Third Grade: 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Fourth Grade: 1:10 - 2:40 p.m.**

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

