

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Kathleen A. Sidoti

We had a wonderful visit with our Poet-in-Residence, Emari DiGiorgio. It was nice to see so many of you come to see her in action with the fourth and fifth grade students. We are looking forward to this year's Poetry Anthology.

As we leave the winter season, we continue to provide many enriching activities for the students. I have listed the dates to remember in March. Please put them on your calendars!

Your PTA continues to work hard in providing cultural events, fund raising activities, and programs for the parents, too. If at any time you have questions about any of our programs, please contact me by phone, note, or appointment. I welcome any suggestions or comments you may have that could improve our school learning environment.

Congratulations to all our students who participated in our school spelling bee. Our school winners were:

1 st place	Liam Davis	Grade 5
2 nd place	Brendan Donlon	Grade 4
3 rd place	Alan Bubello	Grade 4

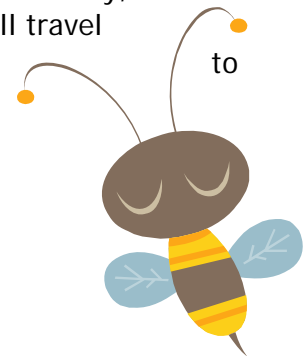


The classroom participants were:

- 4A Shannon Joyce & Jack Kaiser
- 4B Alan Bubello & Brendan Donlon
- 5A Eric Kiernan & Nicole Scalzo
- 5B Liam Davis & Owen McCormack
- 5C Jonathon Ahl & Justin Hardzewicz

Liam Davis will participate in the Regional Spelldown at Monmouth University on Monday, March 9th and Tuesday, March 10th. The regional winner will travel to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Spelling Bee.

Good Luck, Liam!



LOOKING AHEAD ~

March

- 2 Read Across America Day
- 2-6 Kindergarten Registration Week - 9:30 - 11:30AM; 1 - 2:30PM
- 3 Candy Sale ends; Beach Grass Planting Program - 9-12 noon
- 4 Bowling Fundraiser - 4 - 6PM - Brunswick Lanes - Hazlet
- 5 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Field Test
Grade 4 only
- 11 Lifetouch Spring Fundraiser Photos; PTA Meeting - 7PM
- 20 REBEL students from Bayshore will visit our 5th graders
- 25 Pre-K Library Program - 12:30 - 1:15PM
- 26 Candy Pick-up - 3 - 6PM - All Purpose Room; Pre-K Vision and Hearing
Screening
- 31 Book-It Program ends



Student Scoops

Keep clipping your box tops. Box tops offer three easy ways to earn cash for our school through everyday activities such as buying groceries, shopping online and purchasing books. To learn more, visit btfe.com. Thanks for choosing to make a difference for our school with box tops! We have really done a great job in collecting these to pay for some great activities! Questions regarding box tops should be directed to our box top coordinator, Karyn Pace.

Got a Special talent? Sign up for this year's "Leonardo's Got Talent" Talent Show. It will be held April 24, 2009 @ Bayshore Middle School. Please contact Debbie Martin 291-1978 for more details.



From Our PTA Board

We hope everyone enjoyed the PTA sponsored "Family Fun Skate" that took place on Feb. 8th in Wall. Thank you to Sharon Dingaro, who organized the event and provided the school with a wonderful time enjoyed by students, parents and staff.

As a reminder, in May the current PTA board will be leaving and a new board **MUST** be selected. We would like to remind everyone that most of the activities enjoyed by the students throughout the school year are provided by the PTA, not the Board of Education. PTA funds are raised solely by fundraisers. In order for the school to continue to generate these funds, a PTA board must be in place. Fundraising cannot take place within the school without a PTA.

NO VOLUNTEERS = NO ACTIVITIES

Our PTA meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the APR of the school and childcare is provided-FREE OF CHARGE. If you are a new parent or have been around a while and would like to get involved with your child's education, we look forward to seeing you there.



Washington



Lincoln

All Around the School

Please continue to save soda can tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Please send them in with your child and have them bring them in to Mrs. Keitans-Hines' classroom.

2009-2011 PTA BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Taking nominations for:

- ✓ President
- ✓ Vice-President
- ✓ Treasurer
- ✓ Recording Secretary
- ✓ Corresponding Secretary

At the end of the current 2008-2009 school year, our current PTA board will be stepping down from their current positions.

ALL POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

The importance of the PTA board is paramount to a great many events and fundraisers that Leonardo Grade School offers. If you would like to nominate yourself or one of our parents/teachers, please contact the nominating committee.

Descriptions of the duties that are required for each position were sent home via email.

Nominating Committee:

Barbara Caccamo (732) 872-7201

leonardoscience@hotmail.com

Melissa Cuvanov (732) 872-8177

mcbaby1199@aol.com

Karen Garbayo (732) 291-2336

kgarbayo@comcast.net

From the Nurse's Office

The new immunization regulation requires all students born after January 1997 to receive one dose of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, Tdap, and one dose of meningococcus vaccine against meningitis.

Tdap prevents pertussis or whooping cough, which is on the rise in North America. Most people with a coughing illness are told they have a virus. But long lasting coughs are common with this disease. Many babies in the U.S. die from pertussis each year. Almost all are younger than four months, not immune yet from their vaccine. Teens and adults protected by Tdap will reduce the chance that babies will be infected too.

If any student has recently received new vaccines or boosters, please send the date and doctor's note to the Health Office.

Thanks!

Mrs. Fugaro, RN School Nurse



Classroom Chit Chat

KAM Miss Thompson KPM

Happy 2009! We hope you enjoyed the holidays as much as we did. Our class was so surprised and excited when Santa Claus stopped by our class and brought gifts for all of us. Thank you again for your very thoughtful and generous gifts. They are all greatly appreciated. Our classroom was turned into the Polar Express before winter break and we had so much fun coming to school in our pajamas. We each got our own golden ticket to board the train to the North Pole. Santa even left a bell for each of us from his sleigh! For the Science Fair, the students made their own material creatures out of recycled items. They were all so creative and did a wonderful job! I am so proud of everyone.

Keeping busy, we have been having fun reading & writing in our centers. We are working on Unit 4 in reading and Chapter 6 in math. In math, we are learning about estimation and measurement. We had a lot of fun making our Valentine's Day Cards and bags. We were so excited to celebrate our 100th day of school. The children have been practicing their 100th song, which helps us learn how to count by 10s up to 100! Each student also drew a picture of what they thought they would look like when they are 100 years old! We were all very excited and anxiously waited for this day. Since the very first day, we have been recording the number of days we have been in school. To honor the celebration of the 100th day, we did many things to help us realize just how big 100 really is!



1A Miss Plunkett 1A

We made it! 100 days of learning and fun! To celebrate, the class made a trail mix of 100 snacks, made pictures of what we will look like in 100 years and many more exciting activities. To go along with the new Investigation Unit, the class also made pictures using 100 pattern blocks. We would like to thank everyone who joined us at our "Sweetheart Tea". The children worked very hard to help transform the classroom into a café with lots of handmade touches. The class also enjoyed writing about all of the people that are so special to them. The new science kits have arrived and we can't wait to experiment with air and weather. Some of the experiments include making pinwheels, observing bubbles and tracking the daily weather.

1B Mrs. Sheehan 1B

Happy New Year to everyone! We started the New Year with a special party celebration. The celebration was for all the new things we will learn in 2009. Where has the winter gone? Mrs. Sheehan is still looking for the big snowstorm! We had a great time working on all the snow activities in class and writing about snow. We learn some interesting facts about snow. Our snow stick came in handy to measure and see how much snow had fallen. By the way did you see some strange snowmen walking around the building? We are finishing up our Math investigation unit and moving back into the Math book. In Science our unit on magnets come to a close and we are headed into the weather unit. We will be keeping track of the weather and we will see what wind can do when it starts to blow. We continue to learn more skills to help us become better readers and we are always writing about something new. February brought around many special days and fun activities with them, Groundhog day, Lincoln's B'day, 100th day, Mardi Gras, and Washington's B'day. Can March be as exciting?

Mrs. Chamra, Mrs. Keitans-Hines,
2A Mrs. Dowstra-Cox & Mrs. Meehan 2B

The second graders are beginning a new unit on the physics of sound. They will be learning about how sounds are made and how to distinguish different sounds. The projects that were made for our Science Fair were FANTASTIC! We hope you had a chance to see them.

In Social Studies, we worked on a unit about Martin Luther King, Jr. by doing kind things for others. We've also been discussing wants and needs and why our parents have to work so hard to earn money. We studied Black History in February, along with George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. In March, we will be studying some famous women in America.

Both classes had a ball with our 100th day celebrations on February 19. We did a lot of fun activities. We had a surprise visit from the "Cat in the Hat"! In conjunction with the 100th day, we collected 100 canned goods to be donated to a local food bank. We've also made 100 valentines to send to the local senior citizens and to a former Leonardo student who is stationed in Iraq.

The children will be collecting loose change as part of the "Pennies for Patients" campaign in March. The proceeds will go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. We are looking for support from the students and staff at Leonardo.

Thanks to all the parents who have helped with our classroom celebrations.



2C Mrs. Youncofski & Mrs. LoPresti 2C

2C has been very busy since coming back from our break. CONGRATULATIONS to all our students who participated in the Science Fair. Everyone did a great job! We have been busy working on Acts of Kindness in our classroom. We are very proud of everyone. The students made valentine cards for the seniors and the soldiers over in Iraq. Their creativeness was at its best.

In our Writer's Workshop we started writing "How-to" Books. In these books, we will share our expertise on how to do something! In math, we are finishing up our Investigations Unit. We are practicing addition and subtraction story problems. Remember you can always check out that website that goes with our math series: www.pearsonsuccess.net. If you need a reminder of what your username and password is, please let me know.

In Language Arts, we are studying about BATS. The students are enjoying writing acrostic poems about bats.

We had the best time at our 100th day of school celebration and sharing our valentines.



3A Mrs. O'Connor & Mrs. Supple 3A

The children in Mrs. O'Connor's class have been really busy since the first of the year. In January, we were involved in being video taped for the District for our local channel 20 Your Town Your School. We were taped doing our centers in our classroom for the LEADS model of instruction that we are doing for Language Arts/Social Studies this year. Everyone had a good time showing everyone what we do during our center time. Also, in January, we were involved in getting ready for our third marking period theme called "Meeting Our Needs". The children in all three third grades sponsored a food drive to give to St. Mark's kitchen. We would like to thank everyone who supported our food drive and made a donation.

The month of February has been busy. We prepared to participate in our First Annual Heritage Day. The children researched a country and a culture that they wanted to learn more about and did research. They found out many interesting facts about their countries. On February 11, 2009 we presented all that information to our parents and guests. We prepared food from each country that everyone was able to taste. Many children wore clothing that represented their countries. Parents were given Passports so that when they went from country to country they had to have it signed. Mrs. O'Connor and her class would like to thank everyone for helping to make this project a huge success.



We had the best time on the 100th day of school doing many different center activities to celebrate that day.

In Math, we have started our next Investigations Unit dealing with multiplication and we are all excited about learning multiplication. In Science, we will be starting our next unit on Chemical

Tests. We hope that spring is around the corner.

3B Mrs. Cino & Miss Queirolo 3B

We would like to give a round of applause to all the students for all the hard work they did making Heritage Day a HUGE success. They collaborated with their group members and compiled research on their respective countries and made creative projects. I would like to thank all the parents who supported us with this project. Without you, we never could have accomplished our goal.

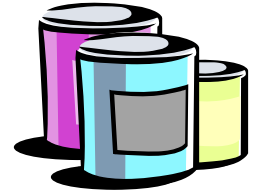


February has been busy as we completed several graphing projects in Math. First, the students took the temperature for several days and created line graphs to show the change over time. Next, working with a partner, the students created a question and took a survey of the students from both our class and another class and organized the collected data in a tally chart. From this data they made a bar graph and a pictograph. Then, the students gathered data from things in their homes, and again represented the data in a tally chart, bar graph, and pictograph. Finally, we made pictographs using Valentine hearts. We are now EXPERTS ON GRAPHING and will begin multiplication and division.

In Science, our roles will change from "Geologists" to "Chemists" as we have just completed our study of Earth Materials and will now begin to experiment with our new unit of study, "Chemical Tests". The students' science projects displayed at the Science Fair were terrific and very creative.

I would like to thank all the families who donated books to our class library from the Book Fair. Your generosity is appreciated. We also enjoyed our 100th day of school activities.

Looking forward to spring.



3C

Miss Brannagan

3C

Miss Brannagan's third grade worked hard this month giving back to the community, as well as enriching their own lives through many different cultures. The 3rd grade recently began their new literacy theme "Meeting Our Needs". To launch this new theme the third grade held a food drive. They were very generous in donating and collecting many canned and nonperishable goods. These items were donated to a local food bank. Miss Brannagan's class would like to thank everyone who helped make their food drive a success.

Congratulations to the 3rd grade for their outstanding job on their first ever Heritage Day. Throughout second marking period the third graders studied ancient civilizations from around the world. They became experts on different cultures. They studied foods, clothing, activities, traditions, holidays, schools and famous landmarks. As a culminating activity, the students chose one country to celebrate on Heritage Day. They worked hard creating menus, murals, costumes, and food dishes. After all this hard work, Heritage Day was a huge success. Everyone who joined us truly enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere, the events of the day and of course the delicious food. Miss Brannagan's 3rd graders would like to thank everyone who contributed and gave their time to help make it such an extraordinary day!

As the second marking period came to a close, so did our theme "Ancient Civilizations." The core novel Half and Half was a favorite in Miss Brannagan's class. The Mummy's Mother, Vacation Under the Volcano and See You Later Gladiator were also hits in the classroom.

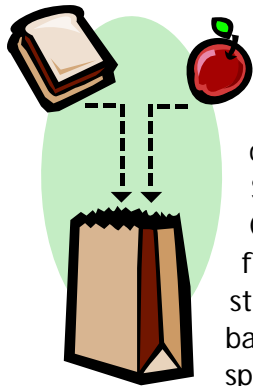
It's hard to believe that third marking period is upon us already. The theme "Meeting our Needs" brings along several more exciting novels and activities. Miss Brannagan's class will be diving into many new novels including, Lunch Money, Rent a Third Grader, Ramona Quimby, Age 8 and 101 Ways to Bug Your Parents. Let our new adventures begin!

4A Mrs. Cuddihy & Mrs. LoPresti 4A

Students in 4A have become agents of change as they join the O Ambassadors Club to create a difference in the world by thinking globally and acting locally. Each month, in conjunction with Mrs. Sheehan's First Grade Class, and with support from Ms. Fitzpatrick, the students decorate lunch bags and fill them with special lunches from home to be delivered to Lunch Break in Red Bank. In addition, students will begin to research various countries and specifically examine the rights of children.

We will focus on healthcare, poverty, sustainable development and education. We plan to create a project directly benefiting Free the Children and Lunch Break. Stay tuned for details...

The Valentine's Day Café was a success! We gathered with loved ones to celebrate our accomplishments as writers. As we studied the genre of fiction, we created believable characters, poignant plots, and conflicts to be resolved. The students demonstrated their ability to work with story mountains as a means to generate events leading to conflict and then problem resolutions were presented. Topics ranged from frenzied fashions, magical hamsters, sports celebrities turning into Martians, skating princesses, missing sisters, superhero brothers, and many other amazing ideas! The small, REAL moments of our lives served as a springboard to develop imaginative literary masterpieces!



4B Miss Healey & Miss Queirolo 4B

The students of 4B are currently enjoying their new novels being read in class, beginning with Bud, Not Buddy, by Christopher Paul Curtis. This story takes place in Michigan during the Depression and is about a young boy searching for his father. The other novels being read are Trouble, Don't Last about two runaway slaves searching for freedom during the 1800s, Because of Winn-Dixie about a girl trying to fit in, in a new town with the help of a dog, and lastly Riding Freedom based on a true story about a girl during the mid-1800s trying to be treated equally.

In Mathematics, the students are finishing up working with multiplication and division before they get started with geometry.

Science has the students excited about a new unit, "Motion and Design". The students will be learning about the laws of motion, force, friction, design, etc... They will be working in small groups trying to accomplish different tasks.

In Social Studies, the students are continuing to travel and learn about the natural resources and history of the Northeast region of the United States. Students are also learning about the Depression, civil rights, and famous historical rebels.

Furthermore, students will be attending their 2ndnd Down By the Bay trip. The students will be focusing on recording, observing, and comparing their results to their fall trip.

Lastly, the 4th graders would like to thank everyone who purchased carnations during their carnation sale. Over 890 carnations were sold!!!! Thanks again!!!



5A Mrs. Barbour & Mrs. Dowstra-Cox 5A

January and February have been busy months for 5A.

We have been reading about the Colonial Period and learning about the thirteen original colonies. Did you know that Roanoke was considered the "lost colony"?

No one knows for sure what happened to the colonists that settled there. Very mysterious to be sure! We are finishing Night Journeys and George Washington's Socks and will soon be starting our novels for the third marking period. In Science, we just finished learning about the clouds and all the types of precipitation and how they are formed.

Did you ever lie on your back and look up at the sky to see different shapes that the clouds made? If so, you were



looking at cumulus clouds!!!

In Math, we went to various classes in the school and asked interesting survey questions. We graphed and compared our data using double bar graphs. They came out great. We are now spending time in Language Arts learning how to write speculative essays. It is very hard sometimes to solve a problem.

February was a fun month as we celebrated Valentine's Day, Black History Month, and Presidents' Day. We did not forget our soldiers. We all made them Valentine cards.

We love them for what they are doing to help our country. We certainly have been enjoying the warmer weather. Maybe spring is really around the corner!!!

5B Mrs. Houcke 5B

In our class, we are learning and reading about the lost colony of Roanoke. This is a non-fiction book about the English and the Secotan people in the mid 1500s. The Secotan people could not get away from the

English troops. They were attacked in all their villages. The colonists at Roanoke suffered because of the Secotans. We are also all in different groups reading about colonial times. The books are Or Give Me Death by Ann Rinaldi, Give Me Liberty by L.M. Elliott, George Washington's Socks by Elvira Woodruff, and Night Journeys by Avi. We have to make our own work and assign our own homework, but we all have to agree. We discussed it in class, in our groups. This is where Teamwork comes in!

In Math class, we are learning about probability. Right now we are learning about things being impossible, unlikely, possible, likely, or certain. For a game we split up into five teams and made up several events for each probability choice. Then we made an answer key saying where each event belonged. We then passed our poster board on to the team to the left of us. Then when they were done figuring out each place they checked their answers on the answer key. There was a lot of discussion about where the events should be placed!! In Science class, we are learning about astronomy. Space is amazing! Did you know that on Jupiter there's a red spot, which is a storm that has been going on for over 300 years. Inertia is the tendency for an object to keep going in a straight line. Gravity is an invisible force that is affected by distance and size.



As you can see, we are always busy with something - weather its hard, boring, fun or easy we're always up to something. If you have any questions, just come up to room 11. You'll be begging your teacher to do what we do.

We know that everybody's always capable of anything they want ---as long as they try.

Sincerely, Megan Bane, Ashley Quardt, and Matthew Morales

January was a very busy month for Miss Farber's 5th graders. February has continued to keep us busy, and we have successfully gotten through the second marking period! The 5th graders were extremely excited to take a trip to Bayshore and were even able to begin choosing classes for 6th grade!

In Math, we have conquered and finished our division unit. We moved on to graphing. We even took our own surveys and graphed the results. We will soon be exploring an Investigation's math unit on probability. We began a Science kit involving "mixtures and solutions." The students are having fun doing experiments and taking a hands-on approach to Science.

In Literacy and Social Studies, we are finishing up the colonial period and will soon be moving on to immigration. We explored the Revolutionary War through our guided reading books during the second marking period. We can't wait to learn about immigration through our third marking period guided reading books. We have had an exciting and educational first half of the school year, and we are sure the second half of the school year will be equally successful!

