



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR

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 February and March. Please put them on your calendars!

PRINCIPAL

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.



Looking Ahead - February

- 26-28 Cognitive Abilities Test - 3rd Grade only; Bottlecappers (Snow Date)
- 27 End of NJASK Tutoring
- 29 Cognitive Abilities Make-ups - RIF Kick-Off - Gr. 1 & 2 - 2:05PM
- Enrichment Program ends

March

- 3 Read Across America Day
- 3-7 Kindergarten Registration Week - 9:30-11:30AM & 1:00-2:30PM
- 4-5 Cognitive Abilities Make-ups
- 6 Pre-K Library Program - 12:30-1:15PM
- 7 Candy Delivery 3-6PM
- 10-12 NJASK 3 Testing
- 10-14 NJASK 4 Testing
- 11 Fifth Grade Trip - LSC - Departing at 8AM
- 12 PTA Meeting - 7PM
- 17-20 NJASK 3 & 4 Make-ups

Student Scoops

Keep clipping your boxtops! Another Boxtops for Education clipping contest, for an ice cream party, will be held in the spring. Questions regarding Boxtops should be directed to Michelle Marconi at 732-872-9213.

From Our PTA Board

2008 is off to a wonderful start. We hope everyone enjoyed the PTA sponsored "Family



Fun Skate" that took place on Feb. 2nd at the Red Bank Armory. Thank you to Christine Fink, who organized the event and once again provided the school with a wonderful

time enjoyed by students, parents and staff. Also in February, the Enrichment program got underway. This program would not be possible without organizer Donna Canfield and all of the parent volunteers, who provide a variety of different activities for each and every student at Leonardo. These are just two great events that the PTA supports with money provided by fundraisers held throughout the year. We would like to remind everyone that most, if not all of the activities enjoyed by the students throughout the school year, are provided by the PTA, not the Board of Education. PTA funds are received solely through our fundraisers.

Remember, we still have four more months of school and many more activities still need to be planned. Since these activities cannot plan themselves and the district does not supply the school with event planners, we need the help of all parents. Many of our activities are organized by the same parents time and time again and unfortunately at some point those parents will be moving on to the middle school. Volunteering is a great way to get involved and meet other parents in the community.

NO VOLUNTEERS = NO ACTIVITIES

Our PTA meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday in the All Purpose Room 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, please join us. We look forward to seeing you there.

The PTA Executive Board

All Around the School

Talent Show

Do you sing, dance, play the piano, do magic or have some other special talent? The Leonardo Grade School Talent Show will be held on April 11, 2008 at Bayshore Middle School. Please contact Debbie Martin @ 732-291-1978 for information.

From the Nurse's Office

Flu Facts

When the flu spreads, it affects both children and adults in school and can keep folks home for a week to ten days. Right now is flu season and the germs can spread through March. Symptoms include fever, aches, chills, and tiredness. These usually begin suddenly. This year children are presenting some stomach involvement as part of flu symptoms. Good handwashing prevents the spread of germs. Here are some tips:

- ✓ Use soap and warm running water.
- ✓ Scrub vigorously.
- ✓ Wash backs of hands, wrists and between fingers under nails.
- ✓ Rinse well and dry with a paper towel.
- ✓ Wash before eating and after using the bathroom.
- ✓ Keep hands away from your face.
- ✓ Flu shots are recommended to reduce incidence and complications.



Always stop into the Health Office if you don't feel well. Mrs. Fugaro, R.N.

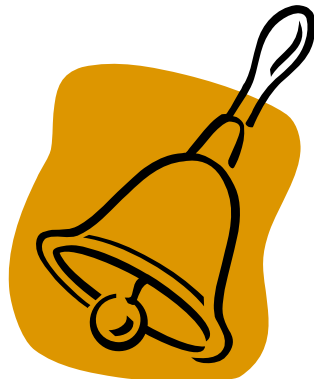
Classroom Chit Chat

KAM Miss Thompson KPM

Happy New Year from all of us in Kindergarten! We hope you enjoyed the holidays as much as we did. We were so surprised and excited when Santa Claus stopped by our class and brought gifts for all of us. We had a great time at our holiday party. Thanks to everyone who helped. Thank you again for your very thoughtful and generous gifts. They are all greatly appreciated. Our classroom was turned into the Polar Express and we had so much fun coming to school in our pajamas and using our tickets to board the train to the North Pole. Santa even left a bell for each of us from his sleigh!

Our class trip to the Paper Moon Puppet Theatre was so much fun. We saw Beauty and the Beast. For the Science Fair, all the students made their own material creature out of recycled items. They were all so creative and came out wonderfully! I am so proud of everyone. We have been very busy in class with reading and writing! Keep practicing all those sight words! We are working on Unit 4 in Language Arts and Chapter 6 in Math. Some math concepts we are learning about are estimation and measurement. For Valentine's Day and our 100th day celebrations, we did so many fun activities! One of the things we did was draw pictures of what we thought we would look like when we were 100 years old! We are all very excited and have been anxiously waiting for this day. Since the very first day, we have been recording the number of days we have been here.

To honor the celebration of the 100th day, we did things to help us realize just how big 100 is!

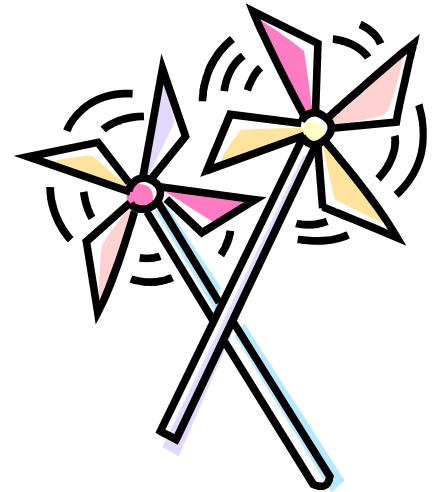


Gift Auction

The Gift Auction is the largest fundraiser at Leonardo! We are hoping to continue this tradition and make this year's even a bigger success! Therefore, we are asking our Leonardo families for a monetary donation to be used towards our grade level baskets. Please send in your donation Attn: Michelle DeFalco or Patty Feola.

1A Miss Plunkett 1A

We made it; 100 days of learning and fun! To celebrate, the class will be making a trail mix of 100 snacks, pictures of what we will look like at 100 years and many more exciting activities. To go along with the new Investigation Unit, the class will also be making pictures using 100 pattern blocks. The class is very excited that the new Science kits have arrived. The class will be studying air and weather. It is always fun to see how air can make pinwheels and bubbles move and float. The class is also looking forward to studying the different types of clouds. Everyday we will be tracking the weather and keeping a journal. March is also an exciting month because we spend a whole week on Dr. Seuss. Do you like Green Eggs and Ham? The class will find out first hand if they do in March. We are also looking forward to reading some more Dr. Seuss classics because we know so many of the 'sight words' in the stories. Have a great spring break!!



1B

Mrs. Sheehan

1B

Well Mrs. Sheehan is surely disappointed not to have any real SNOW! Yet, we have done many snow activities in the classroom sooo... we are snowed out! We finished with a class book about snowmen at night, our version, and each one of us will be able to have our own copy. January and February brought



many fun activities like our Winter Dioramas for the Science Fair, Martin Luther King Day and the DREAM we have, Mardi Gras and our fabulous floats, Chinese New Year and eating fried

rice with chop sticks, Lincoln's Birthday and pretending we are Lincoln except for the beard, what could be made with 100 objects for the 100th Day and a belly ache with the 100 treats, sending our LOVE to each other for Valentine's Day, and our president report for Washington's Birthday and who we might be on that day.

Our writing skills are really improving and Mrs. Sheehan enjoys reading what we have written. We began another Investigations Unit and will learn about the weather in Science. We sure are busy first graders and are happy there are only 80 days left to the school year.



Don't let Mrs. Sheehan know we said that. She won't be happy!!!



2A

2B

2C

Mrs. Chamra, Mrs. Keitans-Hines & Mrs. Youncofski

A great round of applause to all the students for their wonderful science projects! We've now completed our unit about matter and have begun a new unit about plants.

As a community service project, the second graders made about 100 Valentines to distribute to the local senior citizens at Croydon Hall and the residents of CareOne (King James Nursing Home). In conjunction with the 100th day of school, we collected non-perishable food items for the Monmouth County Food Bank. We were hoping to have 100 items to donate.



Washington

In February, as part of Black History Month, we were part of the African-American Read-in Chain. We are also studying Presidents, along with Lincoln's and Washington's

birthdays. Women's history will be studied in March.

Thanks to all those parents who helped us on Valentine's Day and with our 100th day activities.

We completed our Reading for Minutes Program in December. We read a total of 28,984 minutes. Mrs. O'Connor is proud of everyone for a job well done. A special thank you

to Mrs. McCormack for keeping track of our minutes and also for making book marks for the children after we finished



our program. Our top reader for the boys was Zachary Kozak and for the girls was Allison Halpin.

We would like to welcome Miss Mazzucola who is doing her student teaching with us. She is a student at Kean University and will be with us until May.

We are busy getting ready to take the NJASK test in March. We are working on all of our skills in reading, math and writing so that we are prepared to take the test next month.

February has been a busy month as we did a book report on a famous African American for Black History Month. We also celebrated Valentine's Day on February 14th and then celebrated the 100th day of school on February 15th. We did some fun activities on both days. Many children in the class have taken part in the Enrichment Program after school and have come back to school on Monday telling me of all the wonderful things they are doing. Thank you to the PTA for a wonderful program.

In Math, the students have been busy working on graphing projects. Working with a partner, the students created a question and took a survey of students from another grade level and organized the collected data in a tally chart. Then they made a pictograph to represent the data, and then created a bar graph to display and compare the data. The students also took the temperature each day for one week and made line graphs to show how the temperature changed from day to day.

In Language Arts, we are reading tall tales, and the students wrote their own original tall tales. We presented the play, "Pecos Bill, A Tall Tale", to Mrs. Chamra's class. We've discovered there are many budding actors and actresses in our class!!

The Science Fair Projects were great! Both third grade classes put a lot of time and effort into their projects. As we completed our study of the solar system, the children became planet experts as they researched information about a particular planet and made information brochures.

We are just beginning a new unit, Earth

Materials. I would like

to thank all the parents who assisted the children with making "mock rocks" that will be used in our study of earth materials.

Hope everyone had a Happy Valentine's Day!



Please collect the "can tabs" from cans you use and give them to Mrs. Keitans-Hines. She collects them so these tabs can benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

It's hard to believe we are mid-way through our school year. We still have so many things to explore in 4A. We are learning how to write essays and generating ideas like real writers do. Through our small moments, we have developed questions and thesis statements to further explore and learn about the world around us. We are studying various graphing techniques and we will use the graphs to represent our research about children around the world. Recently we have been selected to participate in the "O Ambassadors" club. O Ambassadors™ is an exciting new joint project of Oprah's Angel Network and Free The Children that will inspire young people to become active, compassionate and knowledgeable global citizens. This program explores the ideas of poverty, health care, education and sustainable development, and their impact on children. We are researching the basic rights of children and the need to implement change for children and how to develop action plans to help others.

Target has named the entire fourth grade as scholarship recipients for field trip programs. We were recently awarded a \$900 grant to organize a field trip in conjunction with our "Down by the Bay" project based learning initiative. In May, we will attend a day of exploration at Brookdale's Ocean Institute on Sandy Hook. Buses and admission fees will be funded by the grant. The field trip will give the children a new perspective of the bay and they will be able to confirm research results or possibly synthesize new information into their research. We are so excited for this opportunity!

4B has done a wonderful job during the 2nd marking period. They have worked hard and it has paid off.

The 4th grade has continued to work on their Bay Study. The students spent a cold January afternoon studying and researching the different aspects of the bay. They used some wonderful tools for measurement and study. They look forward to their next trip to the bay.



The students have also finished their study of New Jersey in Social Studies and electricity in Science. They are excited to now begin studying about the regions of the United States, as well as motion and design.

In Reading and Language Arts, the students are continuing to enjoy their Roald Dahl novels, their personal narratives, and descriptive writing. During the next couple of months the students will be writing essays, both informational and persuasive.

In Mathematics, the students are learning about shapes, measurement, and in a few weeks, fractions and decimals.

Finally, a special thanks to everyone who participated in the Carnation Sale!!! The money raised will go to many teenagers in need.



Parents are encouraged to send in student highlights. They may include specific accomplishments or awards in any sport, performing arts (music, dance or theater), poetry or art contests, as well as any community involvement. As always, Mrs. Sidoti will review all articles for the newsletter before the final copy is printed.

4C Miss Brannagan 4C

Miss Brannagan's 4th grade class has been working very hard this month. We recently completed another fantastic novel, Mr. Popper's Penguin, by Richard and Florence Atwater. As we read the novel, we became experts on penguins and their habitats. We enjoyed working in our Literature Circle groups and reflecting in our Literature Response Journals.

The Writing Workshop continues to be a huge hit in our class. We have recently celebrated the "publication" of our second and third personal narratives. We are very excited to begin writing essays in our next unit.

In Math, we have recently completed our "Arrays and Shares" Investigation Unit. We will be starting geometry this week.

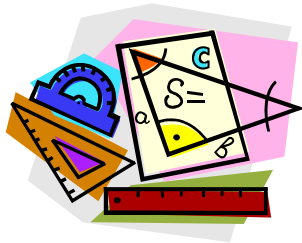
Polygons, angles, lines, circles and spatial figures will be occupying our math class. We are eagerly awaiting the creation of our "Geometry

Dictionaries," as well as becoming real life "Fun House Architects." We will be taking an adventure through a geometry web quest. Along the way, we will become architects and design our own "fun houses."

Our Science unit, "Electric Circuits" was very interesting. We explored and created our own series and parallel circuits. We made switches, a filament and a working flashlight! We all had a wonderful time participating in the science fair and becoming experts on inventors and inventions. Motion and Design is our new Science Unit. We cannot wait to dive in!



Our Social Studies class has just finished traveling through the regions of New Jersey. We learned many exciting facts about the climate, geography, cities, population, and



people. Recently we have become reporters sharing with our class current events about New Jersey. Soon in Social Studies, we will be starting our "backpacking" trip across the regions of the United States!

There are many thrilling days ahead in our class. We will continue to work hard and strive to be the best fourth graders we can be!

5A Mrs. Barbour 5A

5A has been working on projects about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

The facts we found out about our past presidents are amazing. We are also following the candidates for the election of 2008. Who will it be for the Republicans and for the Democrats?

Our Science Fair was held at the end of January. Mrs. Barbour thought we all did a terrific job. The projects were quite unique this year.

In Social Studies, we are studying the 13 colonies. We will also be learning about the Revolutionary War. Pretty soon, we will start reading the novel George Washington's Socks.



On Monday, February 11, 2008, all 5th graders made their first trip to Bayshore. We got our first look at the building and what is in store for us next year. We have to pick what elective we want for 6th grade. Some of us were nervous, but deep down I think we are all excited. We will have a tour of the whole building in May.

We just celebrated St. Valentine's Day. Hope everyone was nice to your "sweetheart"!!

I hope everyone enjoyed your day off in February that honored our Presidents.

Until the Spring....take care and work hard!!!!

Life in Mrs. Houcke's class

Mrs. Houcke's students are having a great time in math studying geometry. We are learning how to use a protractor for measuring triangles and regular angles. We are also reviewing polygons.

In Science, we have just finished animal diversity and are starting a new chapter about Astronomy. So far we have been experimenting about the force between the



earth and the sun. We had a ball of clay and some string. We tied it together and spun it in front of us. It was like we were the

sun and the ball was the earth. Then we dropped the ball and saw what would happen if the sun and earth lost their gravitational force.



In Social Studies, we are learning about the first colonies to settle in the Americas. France originally started a colony in the Americas.

In Reading, we had the second unit test for our reading anthology. We have just finished a reading packet for The Witch of Black Bird Pond. Mrs. Houcke is almost finished reading the Christmas Rat by Avi (one of Mrs. Houcke's favorite authors). It is keeping us on the edge of our seats!

On February 11th we went to Bayshore for an orientation. We watched a Power Point presentation and got to meet two 8th graders named Megan and Brandon who will be graduating. We all got to meet our guidance counselor and our vice principal at the middle school. We also got homework for next year. We have to memorize our pin number to use when buying lunch. We also got great tips like how to find our room number so we don't get lost. We should have

a wallet too for cards, money, and locker codes. We also have to pick electives for 6th grade, and many of us will be learning French! Everyone is really excited about 6th grade.

By AJ Leandro and Bridgett Vina

Thanks to the entire Leonardo "family" for giving me such a warm welcome here at Leonardo Grade School! 5C would also like to welcome Nicholas Alfano into the world! He was born January 21st!



We are continuing our author study about Kate DiCamillo. Currently, we are reading The Tiger Rising. We are finding it to be such a thought provoking story. We are working on our own author studies in small groups. Some of the authors we chose are Avi, C.S. Lewis, Judy Blume, Dan Gutman, and Madeleine L'Engle. In writing, we began our essays. We are learning how to generate essay ideas by observing what's



around us. We know as writers, we need to pay close attention to

the world and not let anything pass us by! We are breezing through fractions and decimals in math class. We've learned many fraction and decimal games and have solved some challenging word problems!

The 5th grade also visited Bayshore Middle School for our first orientation. We realize now that we need to continue working hard and practicing our good habits!

Let's continue working together to make our last year here at Leonardo the best ever!