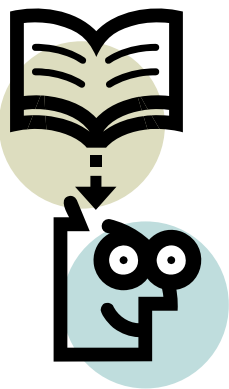


## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Kathleen A. Sidoti

I extend a warm welcome to our "Leonardo Family" and a special welcome to our new parents, students, and staff members. I am looking forward to working with you in establishing an optimum learning environment for your children. One building goal is to focus on an atmosphere that encourages honesty, respect, fairness, responsibility, tolerance, manners, citizenship, and kindness; all traits of good character. Our overall goal is to continue to provide an optimum learning environment for your children so they can be productive and successful.

We currently have 274 students enrolled for the 2008-2009 school year. Our largest class size is 21 while our smallest class is 15. We have 50 staff members including some new ones. Our new staff includes: Mrs. Stack, Office Secretary, Miss Farber (5C), Miss Conlon (Spanish), Miss Queirolo (Co-Teacher 3B & 4B), Mr. LaFalce (Speech), Mrs. Pakrul (CST - LDTC), Mr. Dan Gilson (PT), Paraprofessionals Mrs. Bao, Mrs. Nesbihal &



Mrs. Todaro. In addition, we have some new programs, a lot of new curriculum materials, and facility changes. They include: The LEADS/IDEAL models of instruction (see District Website for additional information), 3 more

document cameras (ELMOs), a second Smart Board (should be arriving shortly), new tables for three classrooms, four Reading A-Z Site licenses



(supplemental Language Arts materials), new landscaping outside in front of the building provided by our parent and student volunteers, new Health & Physical Education books and equipment, and a new Spanish program using the Total Physical Response with Storytelling (TPRS) method of instruction complete with new books and other appropriate materials that will help to support the curriculum.

The students will be challenged by the teachers to reach their full potential. The integrated approach to teaching Language Arts and Social Studies, along with the development of project-based learning activities, will enhance the curriculum and help to provide a variety of enriching experiences for your children. In addition, the teachers have administered the Developmental Reading Assessment 2 (DRA2) to each student. This helps the teacher to determine a student's independent and instructional reading levels. This provides the basis for differentiated instruction in all classes.

Library circulation began on October 6<sup>th</sup> and will continue throughout the year on "D" days. Our Computer teacher will continue to enhance our academic programs with technology instruction in the Computer Lab. She will also assist the fourth and fifth graders with the annual Poetry Anthology. Our Art and Music teachers will continue to motivate the children and have recently revised their curricula to align with the new teaching methodologies used during IDEAL/LEADS instruction. The children will go to the All Purpose Room for their Art class and to the Library for their Vocal Music and Spanish classes. An Instrumental Music Concert, Winter Concert, Science Fair and Art Show are planned activities for this school year. Spanish continues to be our language choice for the District taught in one 40-minute segment plus one 20-minute segment over the course of the six-day rotation on A, C, D and F days. Kindergartners will receive Spanish instruction for one 20-minute session. Health and Physical Education classes are provided for a total of 80 minutes every six-day cycle. Health topics may include: Family Life, Growth and Development, Nutrition, Safety, Mental, Dental, Personal, Consumer, and Emotional Health, Substance Use and Abuse, Disease Prevention and Control, Accident Prevention and First Aid. All elementary schools function on an A-F schedule. Please refer to your monthly event calendars as well as your individual class schedules for further details. Field trips, assembly programs, guest speakers, classroom readers, book fairs along with extra-curricular reading programs (Book-It, Read to Succeed, etc.) have been planned. Our Conflict Resolution, Character Education and Project Wisdom Programs will



be integral parts of our daily routine. An important part of our day includes the recitation of the Peace Pledge: "We pledge to be peacemakers at all times and to treat others with respect." It is our mission to educate your children in a peaceful learning environment that fosters respect. Team work, open lines of communication, cooperation, and support of our school curriculum and related programs are essential in establishing an efficient and effective operation of Leonardo Grade School. We encourage all parents/guardians to volunteer at least once during the school year. You can help with a class trip, become a library volunteer, classroom helper, or chair a committee just to name a few. By working together, we will be able to further develop a strong home/school connection.

Throughout the year, there will be recognition of students' special achievements in the areas of academics, citizenship, attendance and service to the school and community. Children who meet the criteria for each of those areas will earn certificates and/or ribbons every marking period. They will accompany the report card. Again, this year's Recognition Ceremony in June will be an event for the fifth graders and their parents only. This was successful last year and we will continue the process for the upcoming year. Family involvement greatly enhances a child's social and emotional well-being. We encourage you to strengthen that relationship between school and home by becoming an active participant in your child's daily life. Our children are our future leaders. We need to provide them with every opportunity to experience and explore new concepts in order for them to be able to meet their educational objectives. Please accept my best wishes for a happy and exciting school year.



## Student Scoops

Earlier this October, Nicole Scalzo and Taelor Rivera 's soccer team, the Middletown Riptide U-11, won a huge tournament in Virginia. They are now the "WAGS U-11 B Flight Champions". Great job!



**Keep clipping your boxtops.** Box Tops offers 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](http://btfe.com)—and 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 boxtops should be directed to our Box Top Coordinator, Karyn Pace.

**Do you drink bottled water?** Well then Leonardo PTA needs your help. We are collecting Nestle Pure Life Labels until 2/24/08. These labels will go towards obtaining play equipment for our kids. For more info, please go to [www.goplaylabels.com](http://www.goplaylabels.com) or contact our Committee Chairs -Karen Garbayo @ 732.291.2336 or Shannon Barth@ 732.708.0512 for more info.



## From Our PTA Board

We hope this newsletter finds you adjusting back into the routine of bus stops, carpools,

homework and after school activities. As the school year gets into full swing, many fundraisers have already begun. We would like to remind everyone that the PTA provides all of the activities enjoyed by the students throughout the school year. These activities include assemblies, field trips, holiday activities, Fifth Grade Day and Fun Day just to name a few. We would like to thank everyone who has signed up so far to help out with the various fundraisers and activities that are scheduled for this school year. It is because of your support and generosity that we are able to provide great activities for all the students at Leonardo Grade School. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Michelle Marconi. We would like to remind all parents that the PTA will be utilizing the school



website and sending reminders and announcements to parents via e-mail. If you do not have access to a computer or do not have an e-mail address, please stop by the school office each

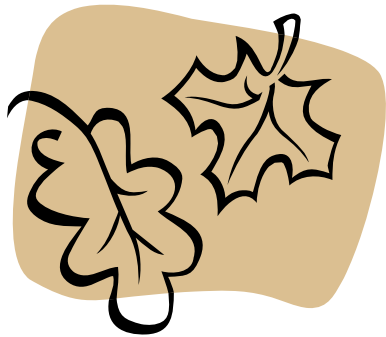
week and check to see if there are any announcements or reminders that were sent out. If you have not submitted your e-mail address for reminders and announcements, please contact Karen Garbayo ([kgarbayo@comcast.net](mailto:kgarbayo@comcast.net) or 732.291.2336) as soon as possible. Please remember that our PTA will be selecting new members to its board in May. All board positions are open. If you are interested in serving on the PTA board, please contact a nominating committee member by April 2009. The election will take place during the May PTA meeting.

This year our PTA meetings will rotate each month from evening to daytime meetings. Please remember that free childcare is only available during the evening meetings. All meetings are held at the school. November Meeting- Wednesday, 9/12 7:00 pm - APR

## All Around the School

### Fall Fest

Fall Fest is coming! Anyone who would like to help out with Fall Fest (being held October 31st) should contact Barbara Caccamo 732.872.7201 or Melissa Cuvanov 732.872.8177.



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.

*Happy Halloween*

## From the Nurse's Office

Now that the mornings are chilly, we need to think of good nutrition right at the start of the day. Our bodies need more energy, to keep warm and to help us to be alert all day in school. That means breakfast every day. Food gives us energy to think. Our brain uses huge amounts of energy to do its job and we know that we start using our brains the minute we walk into school.

A good breakfast for busy, rushed mornings or for folks who don't like to eat early is simple. An 8oz glass of milk even with chocolate is great nutrition on the fly.



Mrs. Fugaro, RN  
School Nurse

Please remember that we all share many areas of Leonardo Grade School on a daily basis. We all must remember to clean up after ourselves and make sure we practice good hygiene. When using the restrooms, remember to wash your hands and pick up any trash you may drop on the floor. It will really make our whole school a more pleasant place to be.

## Classroom Chit Chat

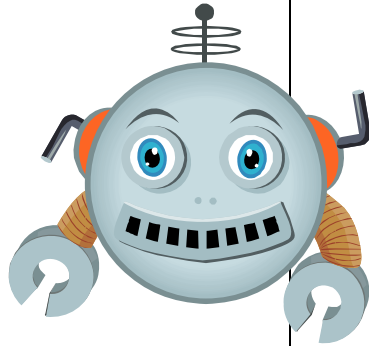
**KAM Miss Thompson KPM**

Welcome to Kindergarten. It was nice seeing everyone at Back to School Night. Thank you so much to everyone who donated supplies and new books to our classroom. It is greatly appreciated! We are having a great start to the new school year, and have so many fun activities going on in the classroom. Our classroom looks so bright with our beautiful leaf sun catchers we made to celebrate autumn. We have been busy making new friends, learning how to write our names, the alphabet, and letter sounds. In Math, we have been learning about patterns and how to graph. We are beginning Chapter 3, learning about counting and writing numbers. The children have been so excited to begin reading and are learning sight words! In Reading, we are finishing up Unit 1 "My World" and will be starting Unit 2 "All Kinds of Friends". When we all work and play together, we learn more about ourselves. In class, we have started Writing Workshop where the children are having so much fun learning how to illustrate and write!

**1A Miss Plunkett 1A**

Things are off to a great start in 1A and the class is excited about the upcoming Halloween Parade. To welcome Fall, the children created scarecrows and pumpkins. In Writing Workshop, some of the children wrote 'small moments' about when they went pumpkin or apple picking.

The class has been learning new sight words and words with short vowel sounds. In Math, the children are enjoying all of the Investigations activities and explorations about numbers. In Science, the class has been experimenting with solids, liquids and gases.



One of the most exciting experiments was using the balances to help determine which object had more mass.

**1B Mrs. Sheehan 1B**

Welcome Back to School!

Welcome back to Leonardo everyone and a special welcome to our new friends, Alex Marconi, Jessica Monaghan, Jillian Murray, Michael Manheimer, Casey O'Neil and Nicholas Sakson.

We got off to a wonderful start in September and it is continuing into October. The children have done a terrific job adjusting to the life as a first grader. As explained at Back to School Night, it is a huge adjustment not only for the children but for the parents as well. You have all been given an A<sup>+</sup>. I am looking forward to a great year with all the children and their families.



In September, we had the program Seek 911. I hope the parents who needed to are working on their homework ~ it is so important!

October will bring many fun activities and events. Did you like those creepy spiders that came home? The review has just about ended and now we will be digging into the harder things of first grade. We just can't wait to start to explore.

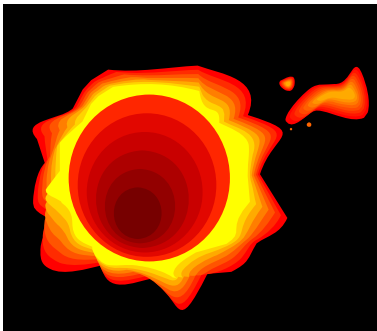
Have a safe and fun Halloween!

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

We would like to welcome our new second grade students—Katelyn Brink, Liam Broadhurst, Matthew Cruz, and Erin Epperson, as well as, our new co-teachers Mrs. Dowstra-Cox and Mrs. Meehan, to our classes.

We were so happy to meet so many parents at “Back-To-School” night. We look forward to working with all of you as part of the team that is responsible for your child’s success at school.

An exciting year has begun in second grade! Our first class trip has already been scheduled. We have planned a trip to the



Monmouth Museum to see an exhibit about our solar system. Afterwards, we are planning to go to Holmdel Park for a class picnic.

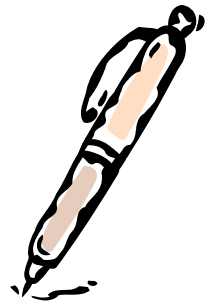
Our room moms will schedule parent volunteers to accompany us.

In the spring, the second grade will again be collecting “Pennies for Patients” which will go to benefit children with Leukemia. Mrs. Keitans-Hines’ class will be working with Mrs. Cino’s third grade class on a poetry anthology, in which both classes work together and will be exposed to many different types of poetry.

**2C Mrs. Youncofski & Mrs. LoPresti 2C**

A great big Welcome Back to our students and families. We are very excited to be working with all the children this year. We are moving right along and the students are working very hard. Thanks for all the great support at home.

We will be exchanging pen-pal letters with second grade students from Fairview. The children are very excited. We have already sent out our letters and are eagerly waiting for a response.



Have you heard the news? Mrs. LoPresti is expecting her second child. We are all very happy for her. We will be tallying up our votes to see if she will have a boy or girl. We will keep you informed.

We are looking forward to our class trip to the Monmouth Museum and to Holmdel Park. The month will conclude with our annual Halloween Parade on Friday, October 31st.

Happy Fall!

**3A Mrs. O’Connor & Mrs. Supple 3A**

We are off to a great start in 3A. We are all reading the book Charlotte’s Web and have also studied spiders. We are also busy doing centers, working on projects and using the laptops in class. The day just flies by with all the various activities we are doing. Mrs. O’Connor loves having Mrs. Supple and Mrs. Iselhart in the room so we can accomplish so many new things in the curriculum.



Mrs. O’Connor was pleased to meet all the parents at Back To School Night. We are also starting our Reading for Minutes Program in class. We will keep you informed with our progress and how many minutes we are reading.

We are all looking forward to Halloween and Trick or Treating. Remember to stay safe and Trick or Treat with family and friends.

We would like to welcome Miss Elisa Queirolo to our class and school. It was great meeting everyone at Back to School Night. Thanks to all the families who purchased books from the Book Fair for our class library. Congratulations to Nikita Garbayo for having the closest estimate of all the students in our Candy Corn Estimation Contest and to Mr. Dingaro for having the closest estimate of all the parents. The students are excited about being pen pals this year with Miss Callahan's class at River Plaza School. We are working with Mrs. Keitans-Hines' class to create a poetry anthology. In our first meeting, we celebrated the end of summer and the beginning of fall. The students donned their sunglasses and sat on their beach towels as they composed diamante poems, which contrast the two seasons. The students are enjoying the read aloud of Charlotte's Web. They have become experts on arachnids after researching information about them on the computer and having created arachnid pamphlets. They compared and contrasted arachnids to insects and made clay models and diagrams of each. In Science, we are learning about the water cycle and matter. The students are making menus for their 'Matter Cafes' listing the solids, liquids, and gases offered at their cafes. We've experimented to see the rate of evaporation of water in the classroom. The students discovered that water evaporated quicker in the cups sitting on the windowsill in the sun compared to the cups of water placed under the computer desk out of the sun. Landforms is our topic of study in Social Studies, and the students are creating physical maps of their own imaginary countries including many landforms and a map key. The students have set goals of how many books they want to read each month and have been reading a lot. Keep up the great work!

3C

Miss Brannagan

3C

Welcome Back to School! The third graders in Miss Brannagan's class are off to a fantastic start. We have already learned so much!

Literacy has become our favorite part of the day. We have completed an author study on E.B. White and have started reading



Charlotte's Web. We have enjoyed the story so much. We don't want to put it down. Our learning centers are filled with exciting activities. We have learned many new words and activities using our word walls.

We have become spider experts, designed maps of our neighborhoods, illustrated a new welcome sign for Middletown, and created our own imaginary clay island, including many landforms. In our reading groups, we have started The Chalk Box Kid, Sarah Plain and Tall, and Stuart Little. We have had many interesting literature discussions. This year we are going to become "published authors." Writing Workshop is teaching us to write detailed, personal narratives. We love

adding entries to our writer's notebook and are looking forward to publishing our first story soon.



In Math, we just completed our first "Investigation." During this investigation, we learned many addition and subtraction strategies, how to use a calculator, how to count money, and how to group numbers up to a hundred. We are now working on place value and comparing numbers.

We love being scientists. This year we have become Meteorologists. We have observed the weather, recorded the temperatures, and studied weather maps. We have illustrated the water cycle and created our very own "Matter Platter Café" menus. We will be boarding a space shuttle soon to explore our solar system!

Thank you to all the parents who came to visit on Back to School night. It was a pleasure meeting you. I look forward to working with you this school year.

#### 4A Mrs. Cuddihy & Mrs. LoPresti 4A

SCHOOL ROCKS! As you talk with students in 4A, they will proudly share with you many of our activities related to our Back to School theme. Students have created CD tracks related to their lives, as well as student dossiers to help us understand one another. Currently we are reading a core novel, The Stink Files, to help us make connections to Language Arts and Social Studies with our theme, "The Ripple Effect." Students examine characters' actions in books and determine the ripple effect of those actions. They will compare and contrast other characters' actions from our guided reading novels including: Frindle, No Talking, Harriet the Spy, The Lemonade War, and The Weird Club: Search for the Jersey Devil. In Writing Workshop, they share the stories of their own lives and process the ripple effect of their personal choices. The study of New Jersey is our main topic area for Social Studies. Students are synthesizing the relationships between industry and economy or geography and transportation as they analyze the ripple effect of Leonardo's place in Monmouth County, Monmouth County's place within the state, and New Jersey's accomplishments or problems in relationship to the United States. You can imagine the discussions we have been having regarding the economic crisis. In the subsequent marking periods, we will examine the regions of the United States. DOWN BY THE BAY is back and stronger than ever! Students have already made their first journey to the beach and went right to work analyzing sand samples, water clarity, shoreline changes, pollution on the beach, wave impact, plant life and animal life. Working with Mr. Peck of the American Littoral Society, we continue to have access to scientific tools and expert advice. In addition this year, Mr. Peck is launching a Shore Steward Program. This



program educates children about the need to provide native plants to combat pollution. Plants will absorb runoff water, which often has many contaminants. Through this process, less pollution like fertilizers and animal waste will end up in the bay and other water ecosystems. Look for some new gardens around the schoolyard and hope that they have the desired ripple effect in beautifying our schoolhouse while fighting pollution.



#### 4B Miss Healey & Miss Queirolo 4B

WELCOME BACK!!!! 4B is off to a busy and exciting start. The students have already begun their yearlong science project, Down By the Bay. They are broken into different areas based on scientific study. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, we all traveled to Leonardo Beach to conduct our research. Their next trip will be in January to compare and contrast their previous observations. In Reading and Language Arts the students are off to a great start. The students are all really enjoying reading The Stink Files: The Postman Always Brings Mice, by Holm & Hamel. They are also enjoying their new literature The Weird Club: The Search for the Jersey Devil, The Lemonade War, and Frindle. The students look forward to reading all the wonderful examples of texts this year. In Writing and Language Arts, the students are writing personal narratives to show that they have wonderful stories to tell. They are also working on descriptive writing. Can they write in a way to allow their readers to imagine what it is they are trying to say or show? Lastly, the students have begun to learn about and study the history of New Jersey. They will be researching the counties, physical features, historical firsts and events.

Have a wonderful year!!!

5A has gotten off to a great start.

We have two new students, Isabella Cruz, and Michael Guiney, who we would like to welcome to Leonardo Grade School.

Our first class trip took place Oct. 13, 2008. We went to Poricy Park. It was a lot of fun.

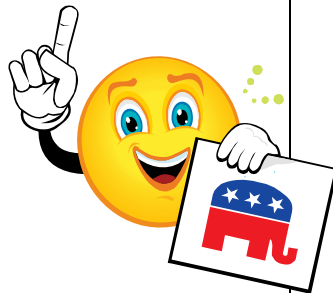
Now that we are into the full swing of school, the days go by really fast. We have been so busy.

We have been studying about the Maya People. Our core novel, The Well of Sacrifice has us on the edge of our seats. At this time we are also working on our Native American reports and projects. Mrs. Barbour can't wait to see them. We are also moving right along in all our other subject areas.

The fifth grade is very lucky to be taking D.A.R.E.

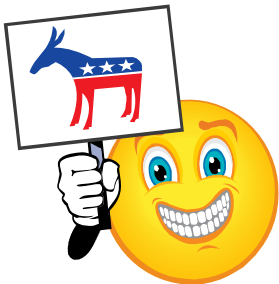
Halloween is soon approaching and we are looking forward to Fall Fest.

The Presidential election is coming down to the wire. 5A will be "hosting" the school election on Nov. 3, 2008. It will be interesting to see who



wins in Leonardo!

We wish everyone a Happy Fall and a great new school year.



**What is happening in Mrs. Houcke's class?**

In Mrs. Houcke's class, we are learning a lot. Our first book we are reading this year is The Well of Sacrifice by Chris Eboch. This is a very interesting book. It is about a tribe called the Mayans. The main characters are a sister named Eveningstar Macaw and her brother Smoke Shell, and how they live in the 19th century Mayan life.



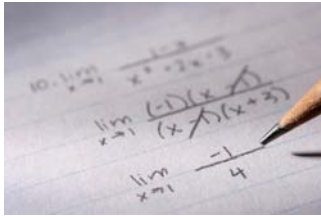
We also started a book project called "All About Me". This book will include things about us. The first assignment that will be in our books is something called "Our Name Stories". This consists of how our parents decided on each of our names and their meanings. Next, we had a chance to design our first, middle, and last name whatever way we wanted. Some did animal letters, bubble letters, letters that looked like something such as fire, ice, clouds, bugs, and many more. We look forward to making more things for our books.

Lastly, we went on our first class trip to Poricy Park. There we learned about nature and other wild life. We also learned how to identify animal skulls and the difference between three types of sand. So far, this year has been very fun. Our class is excited for the many different projects we come across this year.

**By Ashley Quardt & Vanessa Cameron**



Miss Farber's fifth grade class is off to a terrific start! It was wonderful meeting the parents at Back-to-School Night and Miss Farber would like to thank the staff, students, and parents for warmly welcoming her to Leonardo Grade School. It is amazing how much 5C has accomplished so far this year in such a short amount of time!



In Math, we have learned about place value, adding and subtracting decimals, estimating, rounding, and much more. We have also

started our first math "Investigation." This Investigation unit will provide us with a hands-on approach to learning multiples and factors. Our class has been having a blast in Science while studying the classifications of organisms. We are learning about the kingdoms of life and the characteristics of living creatures.

This year, the fifth graders are participating in the LEADS program for Literacy and Social Studies. This program is new to everyone, and we are all learning and enjoying the experience together. Currently, students are learning about the Maya culture through the

novel, The Well of Sacrifice. The students seem to be enjoying the novel and actively participate in our class discussions. Students have also been participating in guided reading groups, literacy centers, an author study, vocabulary activities, the Writing Workshop, and much more. We are even close to publishing our first personal narratives.

As fifth graders, we are working to set a positive example for the younger grades, and we are doing a fabulous job. Miss Farber and Mr. Webb have much more to teach 5C this school year. We have a lot to look forward to, and we plan on having an exciting and successful year before the students move on to Bayshore. We will continue to work hard, explore new things, and conquer the challenges that come our way as fifth graders.

