



L.E.S. NEWS



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Late Spring 2017

SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten News

The LES Kindergarteners took a trip to the Jonathan Trumbull Library. Students had a chance to tour the library with the wonderful help of Mrs. Slate. Students took a tour of the children and adult section and learned about how they can borrow books from the library. Mrs. Slate planned a cat theme visit for us! Each child enjoyed stories, activities, songs and movement. Students took home a Library Card Application and



more information about the Library to share with parents and family members. We had a great trip to the Library!

Kindergarten student Landon Paradis won an award in the 2017 **eesmarts** Annual Student Contest, sponsored by the Energize Connecticut initiative, Eversource Energy and United Illuminating. Landon had to make a poster showing an energy



saving concept. His entry took first place and was selected from more than 1,200 entries submitted statewide! Finalists in all categories and grade levels were honored at a special awards ceremony on June 2, 2017 at the State Capitol in Hartford. Congratulations Landon!



Second Grade News

In April the second graders created biography projects. They each did research and took notes on a person that they were interested in learning more about, wrote a three paragraph biography and chose a way to share their information. The four choices were: PowerPoint and dress up as their person; type their report and create a bottle person; use the Chatterpix app and record themselves reading their report; or to make a "cut out poster" where they drew their person (with the head cut out to put their own head) and type and glue facts about their person around the poster. They had a blast creating the project!



Third Grade News

Mrs. Pistel's class developed a list of topics that interested them. They also read a few Q and A books to help them understand the format. Then, they each chose the one topic they felt the most excited about researching. For several days, they researched and took notes on their individual topics. After the research was complete, they organized their notecards.



The students created questions to go along with the notes. Those cards were then used to write paragraphs with topic sentences and supporting details.



Finally, they gave each paragraph a heading in question form. Students also added cover pages, table of contents, glossaries, as well as illustrations, diagrams, and photographs. The books were bound and ready to present to the class. We had a book share with snacks and juice on covered tables with a fireplace setting and soft classical music.

The students shared their amazing books with as many classmates as they could in the time allowed. The books are fantastic and the student's worked hard from start to finish!



Fourth Grade News

Mrs. Ieni's students have been working on writing diary entries from the point of view of an escaped slave, a conductor, a slave owner, or a slave catcher. They have been reading various works from different points of view and researched the time period on an interactive website. They then had to choose five events that they wrote about as if they in fact went through those events themselves. They also created a diary using google slides. Below is a sample of one student's work.



May 21, 1834

I am starting to get used to being a slave catcher. After all, I used to be a conductor. I was arrested, and ten years later, I was let out. Chose to catch slaves. Wait! A slave just escaped! Now is my time to redeem myself! Hold on! I see him! He's TRYING to get out of my sight. (but failing miserably!) Let's go and get him! WAIT! Where did that little punk go?!? >:(Hold on! I see him!

Ok, why is he SO HARD TO GET!!!!????!! I have been trying to catch up with him for THREE HOURS but he's pull to many things off! Hold on! He's been behind me? The whole three hours!?!? Oh...it was just my brother. DANG IT!!!! Ok I think I see him in a house looking at me...um...wow. Well any ways, LET'S GET HIM!

Reading Corner

by Greta Skiles

Who wants to read over the summer?

Hopefully, the answer to the question above is – EVERYONE!



Summer reading is more than just a way to pass the time; it is also the way to prevent the “summer slide.” Teachers will tell you – if a child does not read over the summer (particularly in grades K-2), they often go down a reading level or two from where they ended the school year. So instead of moving forward from the very first day of school in August, they will spend at least a month regaining that lost ground. But how do you get kids to read when the sun is shining and they have so many activities?

Keep it short and manageable, and don’t limit your child to read only books. There are so many different things to read: magazines, travel books, brochures, menus, grocery ads, riddles, Mad Libs, comics...the list goes on! The important thing is to read every day; multiple times per day is even better.

When choosing reading material, make sure that it meets two criteria:

1. It should be easy or just right for your child. Ideally, she should be able to read a page with no more than 3 difficult words or errors. Never force your child to read something that is too challenging! This will backfire on you by creating a resistance and dislike of reading. If we want children to enjoy reading, it must be an enjoyable experience (not torture!). For help in selecting reading materials, Scholastic Book Wizard (<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/book-search>) is available as an app to help you while at the library or bookstore.

2. It should also be interesting to your child. Choice of reading materials is a key to reading success. No one wants to read things that they are forced to read. But spending time with texts that are about topics he is interested in while set him up for fun and success.

Research has shown that reading just 6 books over the summer is the “ideal” for preventing summer slide. Our school participates in the Summer Reading Challenge, and the public library always offers a summer reading program with a fun theme and incentives. Scholastic also has a website for kids to search for books, earn points, and play games at <https://www.scholastic.com/kids/home>.

Last, don’t forget to keep reading to your kids over the summer. Bedtime stories and audible books on car trips are the best ways to increase your children’s vocabulary and comprehension while providing some quality time together. Enjoy your summer...read...and we’ll see you next school year!

~Greta

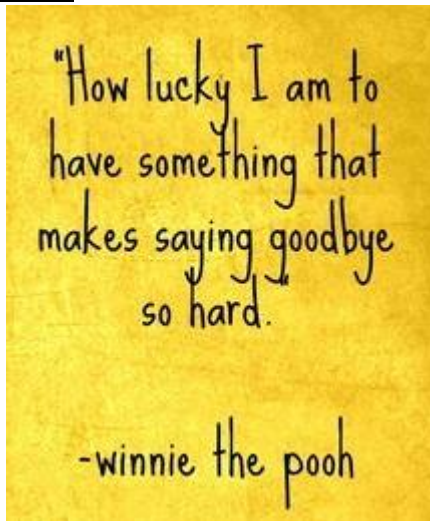
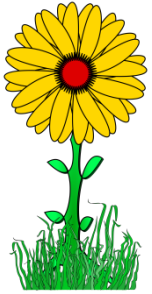
**Poem of the Month****SCHOOL**

When school lets out in June, I feel
 As happy as can be.
 I hop and skip and jump and run
 And shout and laugh with glee.
 I’m sure that I will never want
 To go to school again,
 But when September comes around,
 I always like it then.

~Iva Riebel Judy

A Reminder from the Librarian

May 26th will be the last day that children can check out books. I will have other activities to keep them happy, and in meantime I am on the hunt for their overdue books!

The June Art Corner*Greetings to Parents and Students...*

It is with a heavy heart that I announce my retirement to my LES family of colleagues, parents, students and friends. I have been teaching in the Lebanon school district for twenty-five years, the past five years have been a shared position at the high school and at our elementary school. Although I began my tenure here at this school with trepidation, I soon came to dearly love all my students and colleagues and can honestly say that these have been the best years of my career. I will miss teaching my young learners, but look forward to new horizons with more time to spend with family, friends and creating my own artwork. Thank you for all your support throughout these past years, I leave with lots of wonderful memories and a grateful heart. A sweet goodbye with love from Mrs. Lee



Lots of 2-D artwork is now hanging in the halls, but will all be sent home during the last week of school. All 3-D artwork will be sent home by the beginning of June. Students are still very busy with final projects and here are some conversation starters:

- Afternoon Pre-K-hot air balloons: What shape is a balloon? How can you decorate the balloon? What hangs under the balloon?
- Kindergarten cupcake: What does the bottom of a cupcake look like and what kind of lines do you use to make it? How do you draw frosting?

Where does the cherry go? How do you make a sprinkle?

- 1st Grade Mice: What shapes do you use to paint a mouse? Describe the parts of a mouse? How do you make cheese? Can mice be happy? How?
- 2nd Grade hamburgers: Would you eat the kind of hamburger that you made in art? What goes into an art hamburger? Could you take a bite of this hamburger? What was your favorite part of the hamburger?
- 3rd Grade Trophy Fish: What makes a fish a 'trophy fish'? Do fish have to look real in art? How can you make them interesting? What happens to a trophy fish after it is 'caught'?
- 4th Grade Southwestern Landscape: Describe the foreground, middle ground and background in a landscape? Describe the way the land looks in the southwest? What lives in this part of the country? What grows in this part of the country? What colors can be used when creating a southwestern landscape?

Please feel welcome to stop in and see the artwork displayed throughout our hallways before June 9th. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at barbara.lee@lebanonct.org

I hope all LES families have a summer full of fun and relaxation!



HUSKIES!

**Have
responsibility
Use honesty
Show respect
to all
Keep safe
In
Every
Setting**

**Husky Heroes**

The following students have been nominated for demonstrating our school-wide behavior expectations on a consistent basis.

Students recognized in April - May:

Pre-K ~ AM:

Audrey Rivera
Pacific Blain

Pre-K ~ PM:

Ian Sehl
Braddock Chesmer

Kindergarten:

Kendall Grant
Jeremiah DeVoe

Grade 1:

Jacob Brenner
Anilton Pontes
Makenzie Albee

Grade 2:

Adam Lake
Logan Sylvester
Caleb Wiriya
Hayden Haggett
Abby Landry
Jaelyn Johnson
James Price
Jesael Palacios-Mendez
Isabelle Christina
Lucas Judd
Jason Thoma
Tilden Reinkens

Grade 3:

Josh Cady
Samuel Hassler
Harrison Billiot
Madeline Weinstein
D.J. Medina
Clark Smithwick
Skylar Jadczyk
Talia Hiltz
Noah Cardinal
Matthew Williams
Cody Heath
Sam Barnes
Olivia Goderre
Haley Saltonstall

Grade 4:

Ellie Harmon
Eleanor Rodgers
Ethan Benoit
Nick Chalifoux
Olivia Shefer
Serena Waddell
Hannah Gonzalez
Brandon Hancock
Nick Liscum
Zachary Gendreau
Kevin Botticello
Becca Ziegler
Kayla Osga
Makiah Speight
Hanna Barnes
Roman Maglio



**2017 Summertime Programs presented by
the Lebanon Recreation Department:**

- **Summer Art Classes**
- **Imagination Engineering Summer Camp**
- **Swim Lessons**

From the Principal's Desk:**5 Year Celebration/Appreciation List**

For the past five years I have started each of my team meetings with an opportunity for celebrations and appreciations. Given that this will be my last Principal's report as an administrator in Lebanon I thought it would be nice to take time to celebrate and appreciate some of the great accomplishments that have taken place during our time together. First let me say that nothing on this list would have been possible without the unwavering support, collaboration, and cooperation of the wonderful families, the super students and the talented teachers at LES. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to work with, and lead, such an amazing community which values active partnership towards reaching our goal of preparing students to succeed in a global world by providing a quality and challenging education in a safe environment.

- Transitioned curriculum to align with the Common Core State Standards and made instructional shifts to accompany the new standards.
- School Performance- a school performance index is the average of all Connecticut Mastery Tests. Schools were given a rating based on this data up until 2013. From the school year 2009-10 through 2012-13 LES increased their performance each year. The Next Generation Accountability Report began being used in 2014-2015. During that school year, our ELA index rate was 72.2 and our Math index rate was 65.4 compared to 67.9 and 59.3 for state averages. In 2015-16 our ELA rate was 75.6 and our Math rate was 67.4 compared to 67.7 and 61.4 at the state level.
- Adopted the CCSS aligned Envisions Math program bringing a continuity and consistency to our math instruction.
- Rolled out a new Teacher Evaluation system and introduced the MyLearningPlan software that facilitated the entering of data and final teacher ratings. During this process I held MLP academy sessions to assist teachers in understanding this platform.

- We have dramatically increased the amount of instructional technology and programs at LES.
 - Here are some of the programs used on a regular basis at LES
 - RazKids, Lexia, BrainPop, PebbleGo, IXL, ESGI, Google Classroom including Google Forms, Sheets, Drive, etc.
 - The acquisition of 90 Chromebooks provided for 1 to 1 computing for Grade 4
 - 3 Laptop carts and an iPad cart were shared amongst grade levels and gave students everyday access to technology- With these devices students were able to access global information. These devices create a stimulating academic environment and further engage our students also while giving our faculty another tool to add to their teaching repertoire.
- By moving to a full day kindergarten model we were able to instantly multiply the amount of instructional time we had with some of our youngest learners. They were able to meet the rigorous expectations of the CCSS Kindergarten curriculum and have more time for social and emotional development.
- Our preschool staff worked tirelessly to meet the requirements for NAEYC reaccreditation. This is a mark of a quality preschool program and an honor for us to hang this banner proudly in our main hallway.
- One of the first things we did upon my arrival was take a look at our Positive Behavior Supports and make some revisions. In that process we came up

with our Husky Heroes celebration practice. Students are nominated by teachers, have their name read over the announcements, take grade level pictures that get displayed on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the school, and are given a bracelet and certificate to commemorate this special recognition. We also began using a "Paw Tracker" to enhance communication between home and school for why students were receiving HUSKIES Paws. Other PBS related accomplishments include the creation of a school song, a teacher Flash Mob dance, Spirit Weeks, the introduction of positive office referrals, an end of year PBS Video, Technology Day goal reward along with the "What The Principal Does When Students Aren't Around" video which became a YouTube hit.

- Popsicle with the Principal was held for four years during the summer as an additional transition activity for incoming Kindergarten families. Students visited the school, toured classrooms, enjoyed the playground then took a bus ride. The event concluded with students having a refreshing ice pop.
- This year we invited families to start their day with some special breakfast occasions. Books and Breakfast, Muffins with Mom, Donuts with Dad, Goodies with Grandparents each drew hundreds of visitors and were memorable events.
- The PTA at LES is second to none. Over the years they have put on some spectacular events for our students, some include:
 - Basket Raffles
 - Tough Mudder
 - Movie Night
 - Someone Special Dance
 - Kids Shopping nights around the holidays and gingerbread house activity
- They also funded a sound system for "gymnasium" and outfitted many of our classrooms with Smart board technology
- LES hosted a "Read-In" annually and added to the literacy events by including a Bingo for Books night.
- LES was fortunate, after many year's longing for one, to hire a Reading Consultant to help support reading instruction and programming.
- Acquired Fountas and Pinnell Phonics Program and Benchmark Assessment System
- Led team of teachers and staff through State Systemic Improvement Planning process with members of State of Connecticut Department of Education.
- Member of Professional Learning and Evaluation Committee and participated in planning of PD through 2019.
- Instructional Rounds- Rigor focus- A team of LES teachers was trained in how to conduct instructional rounds. In this non-evaluative process we entered classrooms to assess the rigor of the tasks our students were engaged in. After each visit we planned a debrief with staff to share what we saw and to develop next level work. This initiative has been a great opportunity for us to have professional conversations about teaching and learning and has been a powerful professional development opportunity for staff.
- Writer's Workshop- This approach was an instructional focus of ours this year. The writing workshop approach provides for increased time spent on writing, more student choice, built in differentiation, opportunity for constant formative assessment, individual conferencing, opportunity for sharing

writing with group and receiving peer feedback. Our teachers were involved in professional development throughout the year revolving around this topic.

- Reintroduced Team Leaders- Having Team Leaders back at LES has been helpful in streamlining communication and creating more shared leadership opportunities for staff.
- With the assistance of teachers, proposed and managed a fiscally responsible building budget.
- Creating a safe environment for our students and staff has been a top priority. To that end we have revised emergency protocols to establish clear and concise language and procedures for responding to these types of situations. We ran regularly scheduled emergency drills to prepare our children in the event that we have an emergency. There also have been cameras added and lockdown keys cut for interior doors so that we may respond in the most efficient way to potential issues.
- Presenting a clean and orderly school is also important to LES. We have worked to outfit classrooms and offices with new furniture. The hallways and some classrooms have been given a fresh coat of paint.
- Using technology to improve our communications and share the accomplishments of our students has been a focus of ours. The LES webpage has been revamped, I assisted teachers in creating individual classroom webpages, and developed, maintained and regularly updated LES Facebook page.
- Smart board project carried out resulting in Smart boards in every classroom.
- Created a second Focused Intervention Time school-wide.
- Introduced, administered and analyzed results from NWEA.

- Summer Reading Challenges- I have always enjoyed and looked forward to acknowledging the students response to the Summer Reading Challenge. Each year they have reached our goal and as a result received some type of school and individual reward. My first year I was in a dunk booth, and then I kissed a pig! Year 3 I was a Mad Scientist and followed that up by getting a chance to be Superman. This year we gave out Olympic medals.
- Standards-based report cards created through collaborative effort with grade level teams, Ray Grasso and I.
- Created PLC structure and provided dedicated time for staff to work collaboratively.
- The Shifrin's, with the love and support of our community, completed the construction of Bailey's Garden. It is an honor to have this beautiful playscape on our grounds.

**HAVE A NICE
SUMMER
VACATION!**

