

# Long Beach Island Consolidated School District

“Riding the Waves of Excellence”

January 2018



Happy New Year! Despite the polar temperatures the staff and students are having an action packed January! As we all continue to work together to teach students about the importance of building goals and working towards academic success, students have been working hard to engage one another in what they have learned, and to teach others through special projects and activities within the classrooms.

If you did not have an opportunity to view the Classroom-Close-up Segment on NJTV, Sunday December 24th at 1:30 and 7:30 - there is a link on our district website at <http://www.lbischools.org/>



## Character Education

January is Kindness Month. The week of January 22nd is The Great Kindness Challenge where we will be working with the PTA in collecting "kindness" leaves as children report kind acts from and towards each other. The leaves will be placed on the trees located in both buildings.

Teachers will use this event for writing activities, morning and afternoon class meetings to report acts of kindness as well as teaching character education and how much we can change our small community, and maybe even a little outside of our community.

Our PEP program is outstanding - with a few student-led PEP classes including Treasure Hunts, Buddy Readers, Dance and Paw Pets. It has been a valuable learning experience for students to see what it takes to prepare and teach a 45 minute class! The teachers who have sponsored these classes have been

instrumental in guiding and supporting the student teachers - and without their help, the PEP Program wouldn't be possible.

## STEAM

We are looking forward to our upcoming Astronomy Night on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 from 6-8:00 p.m at the LBI Grade School. We look forward to our star party and to gaze through telescopes at the night sky. At 7:45 p.m. everyone will come inside to read a book with flashlights with Mrs. Gosline and our S.A.I.L students.

STEAM Night will now take place with our sixth grade students and participating fifth grade students Wednesday, January 31, 2018, from 2:00 - 2:15 p.m., at the LBI Grade School.

Last year, these events were a huge success, and we appreciate the many teachers and volunteers who continue to support our STEAM initiatives.



The Long Beach Island Grade School adopted an oceanographic float through the SOCCOM program (Southern Ocean Carbon and Climate Observations Modeling)- a picture of one of these floats is below- and our float was deployed in the Southern Ocean on Friday, December 15th.

Science classes will now be tracking the float, and will be observing the data that it records such as temperature, chlorophyll, salinity, oxygen, etc. Stay tuned!





We are looking forward to the New Year and supporting the Kindness Challenge. There is a tree up at each of the schools as a visual representation of the Kindness Challenge for the students. The leaves are designed to represent acts of kindness toward one another. Students can talk about an act of kindness someone demonstrated toward them to the class. Then, the students can write the act of kindness on the leaf and hang their leaf on the tree together. The PTA is excited to partner with the school for the Great Kindness Challenge and hopes that the students enjoy seeing the trees ‘grow’ at each of the schools.

Reminder: We are looking forward to our February meeting on the 5th.

The PTA is excited for our school-wide Dance on March 9th!

### **Full-Day Preschool**

This month the PreK-4 students have been introduced to our New Year 2018, the month of January, and the season of winter. Students have been practicing the relationships of the seasons and months as a cycle. These concepts are partnered with our science experiments with an Amaryllis bulb where students observe, predict, and record changes happening to our plant in the classroom. Students have explored size relativity as they identify big, bigger, and biggest as well as discussing our “Big Idea:” Is it living? The students enjoyed playing with ice cubes to experience how they become slippery, how they taste, and ultimately melt. These lessons promote inquiry and exploration for active learners. This week students will discuss why it is important to learn the letters of the alphabet and the sounds that letters make. (Letters make words/ words make sentences/ sentences make stories and books) This “key to reading” empowers the students and promotes interest in these foundational skills. Our focus letter is Ss, identified through words such as see, sat, sit, and snow. Students will also be exposed to S as an ending sound to denote plurals. Students will be introduced to concepts associated with Martin Luther King Day such as peace, friendship, and tolerance. Next week the students will listen to stories by beloved author Laura Numeroff as they are introduced to tongue twisters (alliterations) such as “Peter Piper...” Friday January 19<sup>th</sup> is our Theme/Birthday celebration where students are encouraged to dress as superheroes.



Happy New Year! In Kindergarten we are focusing on Earth Science this month with Weather being our cross-curricular topic. In ELA we are discussing how the weather changes throughout each season and focusing on character traits by observing what animals do when these changes occur. In Science we are learning about weather patterns and tools that are used to measure weather. For Math we are practicing addition equations and tying it into our weather thematic unit by graphing and counting how many sunny, snowy, windy and cloudy days we have had during the month.

### **First Grade**

Brrrr... It is so cold out there! While the weather might be in the teens and single digits, we are off to a great start in a new year! In phonics our focus point has moved beyond short vowel sounds and into beginning blends. Blending blends can be quite tricky; however, the children are showing so much growth in learning through our new phonics program. Orton Gillingham is teaching the children how to tackle these tricky sounds! Instead of treating the blends as separate sounds, we are teaching the children, for example, that "sp" says /sp/ and not /s/ and /p/. This new strategy is fantastic! The children have also spent a lot of time understanding the differences between synonyms and antonyms. In math, we have been working on Numbers through 120. We are finding numbers on the 120 chart and learning how to find 10 more, 10 less, 1 more, and 1 less. We are counting by tens, and not just your everyday 10, 20, 30, etc. The children are starting with say 23, and counting by tens (33, 43, 53, etc.). These young first graders are really showing their stuff! Science has been super fun! We are exploring Light! We have done experiments on how to make a rainbow, and learned what exactly a rainbow is. The children will be exposed to prisms, sundials, and other fun activities while learning about light. The next several months will be jam packed with exciting learning activities. Stay tuned for more fun-filled experiments!

### **Second Grade**

Second Grade has been busy as always. The children put on a wonderful performance at the Holiday Show. We had our annual Gingerbread Celebration. The children and their families had a wonderful time constructing gingerbread houses, drinking hot chocolate, and feasting on various treats. Second Grade recently welcomed two new students. The children are thrilled to have new friends! Academically, we are continuing to practice various strategies for addition and subtraction in mathematics. We are studying different types of communities and practicing map skills. We recently read "Super Storms" and have been learning about changes in different states of matter. The weather has cooperated perfectly and provided a plethora of real-life experiences for the children to see liquids change to solids and to experience a blizzard. Lastly, we read "Snowman in Paradise" and the children created their own snowmen to send to their own paradise. France, Disney World, Manhattan, and Aruba are just some of the places they chose. Make sure to check out their art work displayed outside our classrooms!

### **Third Grade**

Third graders are learning about life cycles and have planted different types of seeds and will record our observations as they grow. We are continuing our research on science and technology careers on the chromebooks. In balanced literacy we are doing a novel study, and exploring themes of kindness, acceptance of differences, and anti-bullying.

### **Fourth Grade**

Welcome 2018! We have the complex challenge of long division under our belts and are now working on the Divisibility Rules, multiples, and factors. After finishing up our Emoji Goals for the New Year, we will be starting our next Technology project by incorporating Social Studies and the states, creating presentations for each student to view. Students will also begin to 'study up' on football terminology in preparation for our Annual Super Bowl Prediction Newspaper Reports. We will become News Reporters and predict the events and outcome of Super Bowl 52. We have a lot in store for the coming month!

### **Fifth Grade**

The Fifth Grade students have been "chillin" through the month of January, but we are ready for some warmer weather! In Social Studies we are trying to figure out what happened to the colonists in Roanoke. In Balanced Literacy we are continuing with non-fiction. We are looking forward to DARE starting!

### **Sixth Grade**

Recently, our Sixth Grade band members took a field trip to SRMS to play alongside middle school band students. It was hugely successful and great to see so many LBI alums say hello. In Science, students have adopted a float that has been deployed in the Southern Ocean through the Southern Ocean Carbon and Climate Observations and Modeling (SOCCOM) project. In ELA, students are working on informational writing and research. In Math, students have been reviewing how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals. Students participated in a LIFE game activity where they had to balance a checkbook and were buying and selling items such as houses, cars, vacations, and even paying bills! In addition, students are solving equations and evaluating expressions with decimals. Students have been using the resource EdPuzzle to help test their knowledge and review past concepts. The next unit students will be working on deals with prime and composite numbers.