

Long Hill Elementary School Newsletter

February 2019

ANDREA D'AIUTO, PRINCIPAL
JAMIE WEBER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

A Message from the Principal

This year is flying by and it's hard to believe that we are already in February. Thank you to everyone who donated to our "Souper" Bowl. LHS was able to donate over 250 cans to the Audrey Dreyer Food Bank.

On Friday, we celebrated World Read Aloud Day and I was lucky enough to be a mystery reader. Being in the classroom and reading to the students is just one of the many activities I enjoy participating in. I love visiting classrooms on a daily basis and spending time with our students.

At LHS, we have been finding new ways to increase our students' vocabulary. One initiative this year is

"Which One of These Words is Not Like the Other?". On Fridays, the LHS Word of the Week is announced. Throughout the following week our students, with the assistance of their teachers, brainstorm three synonyms and one antonym for the word. These words are displayed by Ms. Mulligan, our Reading Consultant, and Mrs. Saas, our Interventionist, in the hallway and become an interactive activity to see if our students can spot the antonym, or word that is not like the others. This fun activity for kindergarten through fourth graders helps build their vocabulary. This is just one example of all the great things that are happening at LHS and I am lucky to be principal of this wonderful learning community.



Our mascot,
Leo the Leopard



During the month of February, we will be highlighting **France** and **England** on the main hallway bulletin board. If your family comes from France or England, please send in items to display!

Upcoming Events

- 🐾 Thursday, February 7 & Friday, February 8 – Kindergarten Registration – call for appointment
- 🐾 Monday, February 11 – Thursday, February 14 – Random Acts of Kindness Week
- 🐾 Thursday, February 14 – Jump Rope For Heart for Grades 1-4
- 🐾 Friday, February 15 – Monday, February 18th – No School – Winter Recess
- 🐾 Tuesday, February 19 – School resumes
- 🐾 Thursday, February 21 – Kindergarten Field Trip to Stepping Stones Museum
- 🐾 Monday, February 25 & Tuesday, February 26 – Kindergarten Registration – call for appointment

Kindergarten News



Long Hill Learners are SPOT On

*Show Respect
Play and work responsibly
Outstanding behavior
Timely and ready to learn*

Kindergarten has been a busy learning zone! Every day we practice all of our decoding strategies and we continue sounding out to read unfamiliar words and are now learning how to retell stories. We are also almost finished with learning how to write all of our capital letters and are

practicing sounding out to write. In Math, we are learning greater and less than and how to compute word problems. We also learned all about Martin Luther King Jr. and his contributions to changing laws for equality of all human beings.

First Grade News

There was a lot of new learning that occurred during the month of January. In Reader's Workshop, first graders were introduced to the nonfiction genre. Students learned how nonfiction is very different from fiction. They learned that nonfiction has text features and that it also teaches you facts. First graders spent a lot of time locating text features in their just right books and have become very knowledgeable on many different nonfiction topics. In Math, students learned about measuring an object's length and height using a nonstandard unit called cubic centimeters. They also learned how to

tell time to the hour and half hour. In Writing, students continued working on opinion writing. Students became familiar with using a graphic organizer as a writing tool. This tool helped students to organize their thoughts before they started writing. They have become quite convincing with their opinions and strong reasons to support their opinions. In Science, students were introduced to the term technology and are learning how technology is all around us.

Second Grade News

Second graders have begun learning how to identify coins and give their values. In the next few weeks, students will be counting coins and writing values over a dollar. Make sure your child practices counting coins at home.

Comprehension strategies have been the focus during Reader's Workshop. Students have practiced writing a retell, visualizing what they are reading and discussing the importance of characters and a setting.

Throughout the next month, students will learn and practice other strategies that will enhance their understanding of a text.

For the past month, students have been working on informational writing. Students chose a topic that they know a lot about and then created a table of contents for their topic. Every student chose four different headings and used their knowledge to educate others about their topic. They were also required to write an introduction and conclusion. It was very interesting to read what the students knew all about!



In January, LHS began our Morning Greeter Program. Third and fourth grade students are "hired" for this exciting job weekly!

January Greeters:

- Hailey Verdicchio
- Stephanie Sanborn
- Blake Hall
- Gianna Hopkins
- James Weed
- Mary Jane Cichocki
- Sebastian Gelsi

Third Grade News

In our new Math unit, the children are exploring fractions. They are learning that fractions are numbers that represent equal parts of a whole or of a set; they are also learning to represent fractions on a number line as well as solving word problems involving fractions.

For Reading, our students are working on understanding the text structure of different types of nonfiction text. They are learning that authors use a variety of text structures to organize ideas in specific ways about a topic to show how concepts are related. The children are learning to identify these text structures using signal words and to organize the information using graphic organizers. They continue to work on determining the main idea of a text and providing supporting details when answering questions and when writing a summary of what they read.

Fourth Grade News

In Reading, we have been working in our Nonfiction through Media unit. Students were introduced to nonfiction text features that are commonly found in nonfiction texts. They were able to work with books to practice identifying them. We also began talking about text structures. In Writing, we are learning how to express our opinions using a five paragraph format. We have been using the "Boxes and Bullets" and "OREO" organizers to plan our work. In Math, we completed our Division unit and have started our Fraction unit. We are learning how fractions

are equal parts to a whole. We have also started to discuss equivalent fractions. In Social Studies, we are wrapping up learning about the Northeast. In Science, our Invention Convention unit has sadly come to an end. We enjoyed sharing our inventions with the judges, staff members, parents, and fellow students at the LHS Invention Convention on January 31st.

In Writing, the students are finishing up their final copies of their informational writing pieces. Our next unit is persuasive writing! Students will write opinion pieces with a targeted audience. The purpose of these writing pieces is to get someone to feel the same way as the author does or to get the reader to do something.

In Foundations, the children are learning about a consonant-le syllable. This is only found at the end of a multisyllabic word. Some examples are gobble and bugle.

Third grade has begun receiving Second Step Lessons from Mrs. Ferraro. She will come into each room once a week to teach about empathy.



Kindergarten Registration Dates

Thursday, February 7th

Friday, February 8th

Monday, February 25th

Tuesday, February 26th

Please contact the main office at 203-929-4077 to schedule your appointment



From the PTO

Thanks to all who supported LHS PTO in January. LHS PTO ran its Junior Achievement day in January. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this event possible.

Up Next for LHS PTO:

- Our February General Meeting will be on February 5, 2019 at 6 pm in LHS Media Center. All are welcome to attend. Please come to join in the discussion of ways to enhance student life at LHS.
- Box Tops are due February 22, 2019. When you submit your tops, please write your teacher's name on the sheet or bag for credit, as the class with the most box tops will win a Special Classroom Celebration!

- **2018/2019 Yearbook**

Yearbook Sales will run through the entire month of February, 2019. All sales will end on February 28, 2019, as we must give our yearbook vendor final numbers on March 1! Please do not miss this chance to order your copy of this very special yearbook with a cover drawn by one of LHS' own fourth graders. Yearbooks are \$15 each.

To order online go to: <http://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A09858094>. Have questions about ordering? Call Jostens Customer Service and Phone Orders – 877-767-5217.

You may also use the paper flier and envelope that went home to order your yearbook by returning the form and envelope with cash or check made payable to LHS PTO for \$15 by February 28, 2019.

All yearbooks, whether purchased online, by phone or by paper, will be shipped to LHS and distributed towards the end of the school year. (Actual delivery date to be determined.)

To submit photos to the yearbook: Use this link to submit photos of your student on the first day of school, at school or PTO events, at field trips etc. directly to our yearbook vendor: <https://images.jostens.com/411533686>. Photos may be submitted through March 10, 2019.

- Please Save the Date for our March event, a dance to be held in the evening at LHS on March 15, 2019 (March 22 snow).

Thanks to all who support LHS PTO. Please follow our Long Hill PTO Facebook page for information on upcoming events. You may also direct questions to ptolonghill@gmail.com



Friendly Reminders

- 🐾 If you are dropping off something for your child (backpack, lunch, homework, etc.), the main office will get it down to your child. We will not call students down to the main office to receive the item from the parent, as this interrupts classroom instruction.
- 🐾 As previously stated in the October 2018 newsletter – Students should not be bringing in toys from home OR electronic devices. If your child does bring in any electronic device from home, it must remain in his/her backpack and in the off position.
- 🐾 Shelton Animal Shelter donation needed! This drive is organized by Shelton High School junior, Hassan Valdez, as part of his Capstone Project. This drive will run until February 26th. Items being collected include: cat litter, Frontline Flea and Tick collars, Purina One dry cat food, Fancy Feast wet cat food, any canned wet dog food, assorted dog and cat treats and toys, bleach, Dawn dish soap, and paper towels.
- 🐾 The district website (www.sheltonpublicschools.org) will post any emergency changes in schedule (including delayed openings, early dismissals, and weather related school closings). Local television and radio stations will also broadcast weather related schedule changes.
- 🐾 Please plan ahead and make sure that you have made the necessary arrangements for your child in cases of early dismissals and delayed openings.
- 🐾 Reminder: You can apply for free or reduced meals for your children at any time during the school year. Applications are available at www.sheltonpublicschools.org under District Info.
- 🐾 Follow LHS on Twitter @DAiutoAndrea



**565 Long Hill Avenue
Shelton, CT 06484
Phone: (203)-929-4077
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School Hours:

Regular Day: 9:00am – 3:45pm
Early Dismissal: 9:00am - 1:50pm
Delayed Opening: 11:00am – 3:45pm