

# Long Hill Elementary School Newsletter

January 2019

ANDREA D'AIUTO, PRINCIPAL  
JAMIE WEBER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## A Message from the Principal



Our mascot,  
Leo the Leopard

Welcome back from winter break! I hope that everyone was able to relax and enjoy some time with family and friends. It's hard to believe that we are well into our second trimester of school. Our students continue to be embraced in authentic learning experiences that support the whole child.

Long Hill School had a lot of exciting things going on in December. Our little shoppers had a great time picking out gifts for loved ones at our PTO Holiday Fair. The LHS Toy Drive was a big success and all donations were given to the Boys & Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley. Our PJ Day for Kids raised \$400 which was donated to the Connecticut

Children's Medical Center Foundation. The fourth grade chorus concert, led by Mrs. Adams, was a top notch performance and enjoyable to listen to.

I wanted to extend a big thank you to all of our room coordinators and volunteers who helped organize our winter in-class celebrations. Seeing the smiles and hearing the laughs from our students surely put the school in a festive mood!

As we begin 2019, we are looking forward to many exciting school activities planned for our LHS students. I can't wait to see what 2019 has in store for us!



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

## Upcoming Events

- Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – various district assessments administered
- Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> – JA in a Day
- Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> – JA in a Day snow date
- Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – No School – Winter Recess
- Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> – School resumes

## Kindergarten News



*Long Hill Learners are SPOT On*

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

December has certainly been a busy month for kindergarten students! We are learning decoding strategies to help us read words that are unfamiliar to us. We use these strategies to help us with sounding out to read and write. We finished learning how to write all of the lowercase letters and are

beginning to learn all of the uppercase letters. In Math, we learned about 2D and 3D shapes and can sort the differences between them. We loved learning about different holidays celebrated around the world. In Science, we had a fun time learning about forces of nature!

## First Grade News

December was another busy and productive month in first grade. In Reader's Workshop, we wrapped up our unit on reading strategies and story elements. When we return to school in January, we will begin our non-fiction unit of study. Students will be learning about all the different text features that can be found in this genre. In Math, we practiced reading word problems and looking for important information and key words within each problem. First graders also put into practice using different strategies to solve these problems (ie:

diagrams, number lines). Additionally, students worked on solving equations with 3 addends. In Writing, students began writing opinion pieces. We worked on forming an opinion about a topic and generating strong reasons to support our opinion. In Science, students were introduced to our unit on sound. First graders had the opportunity to use household items to make drums. They loved working collaboratively to both make their drums and to explore the different types of sounds that each drum could make.

## Second Grade News

Second graders are so busy this time of year! In Reader's Workshop, we finished our unit on Analyzing Characters. We identified character traits and feelings, made connections to, and compared the point of view of our characters. We read traditional and fractured Fairy Tales and even wrote one of our own! We created our own Gingerbread character and sent him or her off on an adventure! In Math, we are learning different strategies to add and subtract two and three digit numbers. We are applying our strategies to solve word problems. We are even creating and solving our own word problems.

We just finished up our personal and fictional narrative unit in Writer's Workshop. The students created a realistic fiction narrative of their own and also wrote one about visiting a penguin exhibit at an aquarium. They had to include notes they took from an article about penguins. They are very creative writers! We started our Traditions Around the World unit in Social Studies. We have "traveled" to many different countries to learn about different traditions around the holiday season. We sure earned our vacation!!



*Congratulations to the following students who achieved a perfect score on our first WordMasters Challenge:*

**Third Grade:**

Evan Anderson

**Fourth Grade:**

Trinity Mezerewski  
Payton Severs  
Darik Pearson

**Congrats to our 4<sup>th</sup> grade class who scored 6<sup>th</sup> place in the nation!**

## Third Grade News

Our current Writing unit of study is informational writing. This writing style allows students to “teach others” about their topics. Rather than a storyteller’s voice, students will learn the skills to help them write using a reporter’s voice drawing on their personal knowledge and experiences. In Reading, we have begun to search for the main idea and supporting details in nonfiction texts. We are working toward being able to write summaries of nonfiction texts. The children will be using their strategies to learn to

write a shortened version of a text stating the main points and leaving out what is not essential. We began Unit 3 in Math which has a variety of skills. In this unit, we will learn to complete two step word problems. Additionally, the children will be solving elapsed time problems. Our students have been learning about magnets and their properties in Science. They have enjoyed exploring the classroom to see what types of objects magnets “stick” to.

## Fourth Grade News

In Reading, fourth graders are wrapping up their theme unit. We learned how theme comes from a literacy work and we used rules to identify the theme. In Writing, we began our opinion unit by taking a pretest. Then we created a Winter Stamp Project after forming an opinion about which stamp would be best to use for a contest. In Math, we are currently in our Division unit. Since we could use multiplication in order to help us solve division problems, it is imperative that the kids still practice their basic facts. In Social Studies, we are still learning about

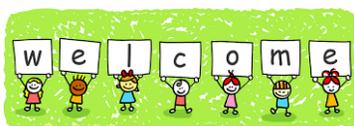
what makes regions unique and we also learned more about other cultures with the various holidays coming up. At this point in Science, students have turned in their Invention Convention packets completed up to Step #17 and turned in their inventions. We also learned about audiologists after completing a Defined STEM unit. The students created a brochure to share with other people who would like to know more about how the ear works.

### Culture in the Classroom

We would love to have you come into your child’s classroom to teach their classmates about your family’s traditions!

- Teach a song or dance
- Make a craft
- Share pictures or a story
- Read a book
- Teach some words

Email Mrs. Marr at [smarr@sheltonpublicschools.org](mailto:smarr@sheltonpublicschools.org) to sign up!



*Join me in welcoming Mrs. Allissa Dempsey to our school for the remainder of the school year! Mrs. Allissa Dempsey has taken over Mrs. Cannon’s Kindergarten Class. Mrs. Cannon and her family will be relocating out of state due to her husband’s job.*

## From the PTO

Thanks to all who supported LHS PTO in December. We celebrated the holidays in December!! First, our Breakfast with Santa was a new event for LHS PTO which featured not only Santa but Mrs. Claus, face painting and a DJ! Thanks to all who spent part of their busy weekend with us. Very special thanks to those volunteers who made this event so much fun! Next, we had our annual Holiday Fair! Students were able to purchase gifts for their entire family. Thanks so much to Shelton's BIG Y who let us borrow their shopping baskets during the fair. Thanks to those who donated items to the fair! Thanks again to those volunteers who made the fair run smoothly by helping students shop and wrap their gifts!

### UP NEXT FOR LHS PTO:

- Look out for more information on our 2018/2019 LHS Yearbook! We hope to start online sales in January. This yearbook has a very special cover drawn by one of LHS' fourth grade students! You can contribute to the yearbook now by sending your candid photos of first day of school, Chipotle event, Santa Breakfast, etc. to <https://images.jostens.com/411533686>. Photos can be submitted until March 10, 2019.
- Our Next meeting is Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 6 pm in LHS Media Center. All are welcome to attend. Be a part of the discussion and planning of new events.
- LHS PTO plans to have an event in March 2019 currently planned as a Dance @ LHS on March 15 (March 22 snow date). We cannot hold these events without volunteers to run them. If you would like to chair this event (or would like to chair an alternate event), please email [ptolonghill@gmail.com](mailto:ptolonghill@gmail.com) to discuss.

Thanks to all who support LHS PTO! Follow our Long Hill PTO Facebook page to keep up to date on all LHS PTO'S ongoing events!



## Friendly Reminders

- 🐾 Guidelines regarding early dismissals, delays, or cancellations as they relate to winter weather:
  - 2 hour delayed opening – doors open at 10:45am; school begins at 11:00am
  - Early dismissal (unless otherwise noted) – 1:50pm
  - Make sure the main office has current emergency contact information. Advise your emergency contacts that they must show photo ID.
  - Delays, early dismissals, and cancellations will be posted on the district's website at [www.sheltonpublicschools.org](http://www.sheltonpublicschools.org)
  - Local radio and TV stations will also broadcast the message
  - You can also sign up for text message alerts from various news stations
  - Please do NOT call the school as it is important to keep the phone lines open for emergencies.
- 🐾 Please be sure your child dresses warmly for winter weather. We will continue to have outdoor recess if the weather permits.
- 🐾 If there are any changes in your child's dismissal, please put it in writing. Additional dismissal forms are available in the main office and on our website.
- 🐾 If you know of a local business or organization that would like support Shelton's Vocabulary Project Word of the Week – please contact me at [adauto@sheltonpublicschools.org](mailto:adauto@sheltonpublicschools.org)  
Commitment includes hanging the word of the week in a visible spot. The word is emailed directly to the business/organization.
- 🐾 Check out our school website at [http://longhill.sheltonpublicschools.org/home\\_page](http://longhill.sheltonpublicschools.org/home_page)
- 🐾 Follow LHS on Twitter to - @DAiutoAndrea



**565 Long Hill Avenue  
Shelton, CT 06484  
Phone: (203)-929-4077  
Fax: (203)-929-8250**

### **School Hours:**

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