A Message from the Principal

I cannot believe that we have already celebrated our 100th day of school! March is a busy month and I am excited for daylight savings and spring. I am looking forward to longer hours of daylight and warmer weather.

I am extremely excited that for a second year in a row, Long Hill School has been recognized as a School of Distinction. This honor was achieved because we are in the top 10% of schools in the state and is based on students’ performance and growth from one year to another. Our school’s score was 82 out of 100. This honor and achievement would not be possible without the hard work of our devoted teachers and support staff, as well as our parent involvement and support.

Thank you to all families who participated and donated to our Kids Heart Challenge. LHS raised over $11,500 for the American Heart Association.

Our students have been working hard on preparing for their Student Led Conference (SLC) which will be held on March 19 and March 26. Information about SLCs is located on the next page of this newsletter. During your child’s SLC you will learn from him/her about their strengths, struggles, accomplishments, and highlights from this school year. Please read this information carefully as they are unlike previous Parent/Teacher Conferences. Your child is excited to share during their SLC time.

Thank you for all you do to support your children and our school! It is truly a pleasure to work with so many great families.

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, March 3: 4th Grade Invention Convention – Parent viewing at 3:00pm
- Friday, March 6: Early Dismissal at 1:50pm
- Monday, March 9: End of second trimester
- Friday, March 13: Early Dismissal at 1:50pm and report cards distributed
- Thursday, March 19: Student Led Conferences 4:15-7:15pm – sign up info to follow
- Friday, March 20: Early Dismissal at 1:50pm
- Tuesday, March 24: Spring Picture Day
- Wednesday, March 25: Kindergarten Field trip to Stepping Stones Museum
- Thursday, March 26: Student Led Conferences 4:15-7:15pm – sign up info to follow
- Friday, March 27: Early Dismissal at 1:50pm
- Friday, April 10 – Friday, April 17: No school – Spring Break
- Monday, April 20 – School Resumes
Student Led Conferences (SLC)

As previously stated in the past school newsletters, this school year all students will be participating in Student Led Conferences (SLC), which is a district initiative. Your child has been working with a facilitator in this building. All teachers and specialists (ex: art, music, Reading, Math, etc.) are facilitators. Your child is expected to come to the conference with you and will lead this conference. This is a time to celebrate your child’s success and progress from this school year.

Important SLC information:
- Conferences will held on Thursday, March 19th and Thursday, March 26th between 4:15-7:15pm. An invitation from your child will be coming home shortly with information on how to sign up for the conference.
- Student Led Conference (SLC) times will be approximately 10 minutes long.
- The conference will be led by your child discussing his/her work this year – improvements, strengths, challenges, etc.
- Your child’s facilitator, who might not be his/her classroom teacher, will be there to help guide the conference.
- You will be notified of the location (room number) of your child’s SLC on the invitation that will be going home shortly.
- The SLC will be different from what you have experienced in the past. It will be fully student led. The classroom teacher will not be discussing typical academic performance as he/she has done in the past.

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**Student Spotlight**

Congratulations to our top Kids Heart Challenge fundraising students!

- Jackson Lynch, 3rd grade
- Ty McGraw, 4th grade
- Christopher Couture, 1st grade
- Nicholas Gasparino, 2nd grade
- Max Kampler, 4th grade

Thank you to Mr. Beloin for organizing another fun and successful event!
Kindergarten News

February was an exciting month in Kindergarten! We loved doing activities to celebrate the 100th day of school and being 100 days smarter! We have spent a lot of time sequencing stories and retelling them using a lot of details. We are also working very hard to build our fact fluency by adding and subtracting through 10. In Writing, we have been practicing teaching our readers how to do something by using steps and transition words. We also spent a lot of time learning about important African Americans for Black History Month and made our own research books!

First Grade News

Our first graders had a fun-filled February! In Reader’s Workshop, we began our fluency unit. We are learning that fluent readers read with expression and a just-right pace, while noticing punctuation and print types. In Math, we learned about standard and non-standard units of measurement. We measured the lengths of objects around our classrooms, and learned to tell time to the nearest hour and half hour. In Writer’s Workshop, we researched various topics to plan, write, revise and edit informative books. We were excited to work with partners to research and write about famous African Americans in honor of Black History Month. We also enjoyed designing and building drums, reading about influential presidents, celebrating the 100th day of school, and complimenting one another during Kindness Week!

Second Grade News

February has been a whirlwind of activity and learning in Second Grade! In Reading, we are working on our comprehension by visualizing, making connections and inferencing. During nightly reading, have your child practice a strategy with you. In writing, we finished our “All About Books” demonstrating our knowledge of something we love and are working hard on our Student Led Conference presentations. We can’t wait to present to our parents. Math has been a real brain growing experience as we are tackling two-step word problems, explaining our answers and adding and subtracting within 100. In Social Studies, we have explored African Americans who have made incredible contributions to our society for Black History Month. We also had the opportunity to learn about Groundhog Day and the history behind Punxsutawney Phil and President’s Day! In Science, we finished our unit on Bridges and are looking forward to our Plant Unit and spring!!

Media Tip by
Mrs. Demko,
Media Specialist

Did you know your library card is good at any CT public library? Check out the books, movies, passes, activities and so much more available for FREE at your public library today! https://sheltonlibrarysystem.org/
Follow Mrs. Demko on Twitter @library_long
Third Grade News

In Math, we are working on our fractions unit. Fractions of a whole and on a number line have been the focus for this unit. Our next unit is about collecting and displaying data. The students will learn how to make a scaled bar graph and picture graph. They will learn how to solve one and two-step “how many more?” and “how many less?” problems. The students will also learn how to show data by creating a line plot.

In Writing, we are still working on persuasive writing. This unit teaches students how to write a five paragraph essay. The students try to persuade their audience to change their mind about something. In the essay, they need to include their opinion, three reasons for their opinion, and details to support their reasons.

Students have been working hard on preparing their SLC (student led conference). It is a reflection piece on what they do well, need to improve on and have enjoyed learning up until this point in the year. They will be putting the finishing touches on these and will be eager to share them with you during the March conferences.

Fourth Grade News

Fourth Grade has been very busy, especially preparing for Invention Convention! We have been practicing our presentations and can’t wait to share our inventions with the judges. In Social Studies, we are continuing to learn about the different regions of the United States and discussing current events.

In Reading, we have wrapped up our Non-Fiction through Media Unit and have begun our Book Club Unit. Students are excited to be reading the same book as other students in their class and sharing their thoughts. In this unit we not only focus on comprehension skills, but listening and speaking skills as well. We have been busy in Math learning about fractions. We have learned strategies to help us compare, add, subtract and multiply fractions by whole numbers. In Writing, we are working on our district opinion task. Students have to read articles about school lunches versus home lunches, form an opinion, and write a well-developed essay.
Each month Long Hill School will recognize "Students of the Month". One student is chosen from each class who has consistently demonstrated SPOT On behavior.

Congratulations to our February Students of the Month:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Dalton, Kindergarten</td>
<td>Ella Morrissey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Giordano, Kindergarten</td>
<td>Anastasia McCabe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. DiMauro, Kindergarten</td>
<td>Victoria Diaz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Bagdasarian, First Grade</td>
<td>Kaylahni Baldwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Costagliola, First Grade</td>
<td>Sabrina Madrahimova</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Dempsey, First Grade</td>
<td>Ameliaiah Bassant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Nappo, First Grade</td>
<td>Brayden Daigle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Allen, Second Grade</td>
<td>Danny Galas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Miller, Second Grade</td>
<td>Glib Vorontsov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Zerella, Second Grade</td>
<td>Zaniyah Cordero</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Cederbaum, Third Grade</td>
<td>Anastasia Raichakovsky</td>
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<td>Ms. Keller, Third Grade</td>
<td>Nadine Gaie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. McGowan, Third Grade</td>
<td>Fort Capomolla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Persico, Third Grade</td>
<td>Hunter Cooney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Budris, Fourth Grade</td>
<td>Myles Santana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Falanga, Fourth Grade</td>
<td>Ty McGraw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Hebert, Fourth Grade</td>
<td>Greg Micklos</td>
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<td>Ms. Zvolinski, Fourth Grade</td>
<td>Chandler Buchanan</td>
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Long Hill Learners are SPOT on

Show Respect
Play and work responsibly
Outstanding behavior
Timely and ready to learn
From the PTO

Fundraising February! Your generosity helped LHS PTO in its endeavor to put even more Chromebooks into LHS as we ran our “No Frills” fundraiser, Gertrude Hawk fundraiser and yearbook drive! Thanks to the committee chairs who make these fundraising efforts possible!

Up next for LHS PTO:

- March’s meeting date will be announced. All are welcome, join us if you can! We will be discussing the nominations process for next year’s executive board and we will need a nominating committee as well so please attend or contact us if you are interested in serving on that committee.

- The LHS PTO “Ties and Tiaras- K-4 Graders and their special guy dance” is on March 13, 2020 (March 20 snow). Check out our fliers/FB page for information on purchasing tickets and how you can donate/volunteer! (Chair: Laura Yarish)

- Next Spirit Restaurant event is March 18 from 4-8 pm @ Panera Bread in Shelton. Look out for a flier soon concerning how you can show your spirit and benefit LHS PTO just by having dinner! (Chair: Melissa Rich)

- Please send any photos you wish considered for placement in the LHS 2019/2020 yearbook to https://images.jostens.com/414663676. If a code is needed use 414663676. Deadline for submission is March 23 as we need to finalize the yearbook for submission to our vendor!(Chairs: Melissa Rich and Melissa Doyle)

- LHS PTO will host a school supply drive to start in late March. More details to come. (Chair: Niyati Rao)

Looking around the corner to April/May:

- Meeting April 7 @ 6 pm @ LHS to include announcement of 2020/2021 executive board nominations.
- Next Book Fair begins the week of April 20, 2020. Chairs Indira Mohanty and Betty Laferriere.
- Our Junior Achievement "JA In A Day" is on May 1, 2020. Look out for more information to follow regarding volunteering for this event. (Chair: Jenny Meeker)
- May 4-8 is Teacher Appreciation week (Chair Michele Pearson) which includes various expressions of gratitude for our LHS staff! We conclude that week with our annual Plant Sale! (Chairs Michele Pearson and Melissa Rich) Look out for more details for both events!
- Meeting May 5 @ 6 pm @ LHS to include vote on 2020/2021 executive board.

We are grateful to all who support LHS PTO! Remember to follow our Long Hill PTO Facebook page for information and updates on LHS PTO activities! Reach out to us if you have questions @ ptolonghill@gmail.com or if you would like to get more involved!
Friendly Reminders

* Our third and fourth grade students will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment during the weeks of May 11th, May 18th, and May 25th. Please keep these dates in mind when planning appointments or vacations. During the testing period:
  - Please be sure your child has had a good night’s sleep
  - Have your child eat a good breakfast each morning
  - Encourage your child to relax, take their time, and do their best

* During the month of March we will be having a school wide math competition. The competition will be classroom based. To participate, students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade will go on Freckle and complete Math problems. Students in 3rd and 4th grade will go on IXL and complete Math problems. Ask your child about this exciting Math competition.

* It is extremely important that students attend school on a regular basis. Good attendance is essential to student achievement. When a student is tardy, he/she is missing important instructional time. Please make every effort that your child is at school on time every day. Doors open at 8:45am and school begins promptly at 9:00am.

* Monthly drills are conducted at LHS. Thee drills include fire drills and lock down drills. Procedures are reviewed and practiced with students on a regular basis. Have your child explain these drills to you.

* Follow LHS on Twitter @DAutoAndrea

* Check out our school website at http://longhill.sheltonpublicschools.org/home_page
The seeds for success in the classroom are sown at home. Encouraging children to read at home is one of the most powerful ways that parents can support students’ learning. Just 15 minutes of reading at home per day can make a difference in students’ reading fluency. Prioritize reading with these tips.

Always have books on hand. Keep a book in your bag or your car’s glove compartment so your child can read in the car, or while waiting in line at the grocery store. Make regular trips to the library, and keep an eye out for books at bargain sales or garage sales. Or, consider holding a “book swap” with neighbors and friends. For birthdays or holidays, give your child new reading material.

Make it a routine. Consider how to make reading habitual. Your family could have a weekly read-aloud session, or you and your child could read each week before bed.

Be a patient listener. No matter how slowly your young learner reads, avoid finishing sentences for your child. Gently correct mistakes, sound out words together, and let your child know you’re proud.

Cut the distractions. During reading time, turn off or put away electronic devices. Make sure you follow the rule, too.

Ask questions. Ask your child about what he or she is reading in school or what you are reading together. Try open-ended questions such as, “Why do you think the character did that?,” “What would you do if you were in that situation?,” or “What do you think will happen next?”

Read beyond books. Invite your child to read menus, greeting cards, movie listings, newspaper comic strips, or directions to a destination. Word recognition is an important step for reading fluency, so consider using strips of paper and tape to label everyday objects in your home to boost your child’s familiarity with words.

Keep it up. Find ways to encourage your child to pick up new reading material to read once one book is finished. For instance, introduce him or her to a series or ask your librarian for books by the same author. Draft a “to-read” list that your child can check off. Consider subscribing your child to a magazine for kids.

Focus on their interests. Encourage your child to check out books from the library that feature characters or topics he or she is interested in. Whether it’s NASCAR to NASA, the topic doesn’t matter (as long as it’s age-appropriate), as long as your child is reading.

Read out loud together. Schedule time to read aloud together, taking turns to read passages. Invite your entire family to participate. Use different voices for different characters, or invite your child to make sound effects for the story.