



"Panther Pride"

Lebanon Middle School Newsletter

Volume 17 - Issue 5
Jan./Feb. 2012

**LEBANON
MIDDLE
SCHOOL**



PANTHERS

From the Principal's Desk.....

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The month of February is upon us and the second half of the school year is off to a great start! The cold weather continues to be prevalent. Please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately. Every day, we are surprised by the number of students who do not have coats, or are wearing shorts and are dressed inappropriately for cold weather

Our parent conferences concluded and I was encouraged to see the number of parents who were able to get in to speak to their children's teachers. The positive outcome from this communication adds to the academic success of our students and also allows parents to express their concerns to the faculty. I would encourage parents to continue to be involved in your children's education and contact the school with any questions you might have.

The student athletes have been busy this month. Boys and girls basketball teams play hard and show incredible enthusiasm with each contest. The wrestling program is also up and running with several students who work very hard on developing their wrestling skills.

Thursday the 16th of February marks the start of our annual trip to Quebec. Several students will be going on this exciting trip which immerses them in French Canadian culture. The feedback from this trip is always positive, I am sure this year will bring continued success!

Required assessments are soon upon us. The Connecticut Mastery Tests are slated to take place beginning March 6th. Please encourage your children to try their best, apply all that they have learned and take these assessments seriously. Your support and encouragement will have a great impact on the outcome of these assessments.

Recently there have been multiple Board of Education meetings on our proposed 2012/2013 budget. Parents are encouraged to be part of the process, have your voice heard and attend meetings at both Board of Education and Board of Finance venues.

As I close, I would again like to encourage parents to stay involved with your children's education. Please do not hesitate to contact your children's teacher, guidance counselor or myself, with concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Laskarzewski

Robert M. Laskarzewski
Principal



**FEBRUARY 21ST IS NOW
A SCHOOL DAY**

Happy New Year!!

Absence Notes

Just a reminder to parents that we do need an absence note for your child when they are absent from school. If we do not receive an absence note from the parent, it will reflect on your child's attendance as an unexcused absence.

If you are taking a family vacation this should be marked as "other educational experience" and a detailed description should be included explaining how this vacation was educational for your child. If we do not receive this detailed description, your child will be marked as unexcused.

You will still need to call in the morning to let the office know that your child will be absent, otherwise the nurse will be calling to verify that your student is not in school. The telephone call does not take the place of the absence note.

*You can email
the absent note to
laurie.bergeron@lebanonct.org*

CONNECTICUT MASTERY TEST

The Connecticut Mastery Test will be administered to students in grades five through eight Tuesday, March 6th through Friday, March 16th. Testing will go from 8:00 am until approximately 9:30 am each day. Students will not be permitted to leave during a testing session. Please schedule appointments around these times, as it is very important that your child is in school during testing. Students who are absent from school will make up the tests at a later date.

Tips for Successful Testing

- ❖ Students should get a good night's sleep before testing
- ❖ Students should eat a good breakfast in the morning before school
- ❖ Please encourage your child to do the best that they can on their testing
- ❖ Allow your child some time to de-stress when they get home from school

If you have any questions regarding the Connecticut Mastery Test, please feel free to contact Ms. DeLong at 642-5627.



Lebanon CT Little League 2012 Spring Registration



ONLINE at www.lebanonctlittleleague.com

Register now through February 12th

5th Grade News

Language Arts: Students continue to work on the parts of the expository essay. Teachers are breaking the essay format down into smaller, identifiable parts, with modeling and discussion of important components. These skills are necessary for successful performance on the CMT in March. Students are also focusing on grammar skills; this month's focus has on editing and revising first drafts.

Reading: We will soon be reading the novel, The Keeping Room, which coincides with our Revolutionary War unit in Social Studies. Specific reading skills continue to be emphasized through the CARS program, as well as the Trophies reading series.

Social Studies: The end of our Revolutionary War unit has arrived and we soon will be having a test for the end of this unit.



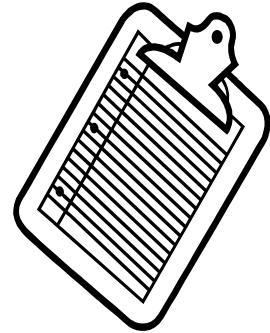
5th Grade News

Science: Science classes are working on our light unit and beginning the study of the eye and vision. After completing light and color we will continue by studying sound and the ear.

Math: We will soon move into our fractions unit this month. Basic facts mastery become crucial as we move into our study of fractions and students should continue to practice basic division and multiplication facts. Classes will also be reviewing math concepts such as area, perimeter, measurement and basic geometric principles in preparation for the Connecticut Mastery Tests coming up in March.

How You Can Help Your Child Succeed on the CMT's (from the Connecticut State Department of Education)

- Expect your child to spend half of an hour or more on homework each day. Studies show that homework helps students do better in school. Also, take time to look over the work that your child is doing.
- Read to your child and have your child read to you. Discuss what you have read. Higher achievement and lifelong learning begin with reading.
- Limit television viewing.
- Make sure your child attends school regularly. Students who are absent from school more than two days per month do not do as well as students who attend school regularly.



YEARBOOKS ARE STILL ON SALE \$32.00 each

Don't miss out when they arrive in June! We only have a limited number of books left to sell. Please give your check payable to LMS, to Mrs. Bergeron

6th Grade Math



Students in sixth grade math are well into their study of fractions. Over the next month we will be practicing adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions, as well as putting fractions into lowest terms. Remember, strong math facts are the key to success in all areas of mathematics – especially fractions! Parents are encouraged to practice multiplication and division skills with their children at home. Students in the seventh grade level classes are having fun working with ratios, rates, and proportions and will soon be beginning their work with fractions.

Parents are reminded that all students will be taking the Connecticut Mastery Test in March. Please encourage your child to do their best on this important test!

6th Grade Science

In December students finished a unit matter and they are currently kicking off our unit about the skeletal system by dissecting owl pellets. They are very enthusiastic and are doing a great job so far!

6th Grade Humanities

In January and February we will begin our work on Ancient Greece. Our study of this culture, that helped to create our modern world, includes their myths, government, art and architecture. Our project for Ancient Greece will be creating 6 more pages to add to progressive Ancient Civilizations ABC book.

In Reading, students have begun working on our new novel, The Pirates of Pompeii. Our work in Pirates will include comprehension questions that students must answer that deal with the characters, setting and plot of this Roman historical fiction book. Be sure to check out our website for homework updates and other important information: <http://www.lebanonct.org>

Québec Trip

We are counting down the days till we leave. If you have not already sent in your child's **passport or birth certificate** (original or notarized copy) please do so **ASAP**. Furthermore, if your child takes any medication, please have your doctor sign the medical form provided by Mrs. Parker, our school nurse, and have the **signed form and medication to her no later than February 1**. Please see that your child packs warm clothing. Dressing in layers is key and warm boots, hats, and gloves are a must. I will be sending home a revised itinerary once I receive it from Jumpstreet.

7th Grade TWT Class

7th Grade Social Studies (TWT)-Right now all Seventh Graders are completing our unit on Latin America. Soon we will learn about Western Europe. Some of our studies will focus on the impact that the Mediterranean Sea has on the people of Western Europe, how some of the countries of Western Europe are below sea level and are forced to cope with living along the ocean and, of course, we will look at many of the physical/cultural traits that make Western Europe an interesting and unique region of the world. Some of our studies will also focus on the use of certain social studies skills such as analyzing primary source documents, debate skills and evaluating facts/bias.

On another note, all seventh grade students, in conjunction with Computer Exploratory Arts, must create a website about a country of the world. Throughout the year, students will be completing these websites. You will be able to view these websites by doing the following:

- Go to <http://www.larrybarlow.net>
- Click on the TWT link
- Click on "Online Country Websites for TWT & Computer Class."

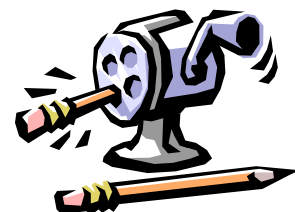
The kids worked really hard on these websites, but I am sure you can tell!!

7th Grade News

In Science the students have been working on their solution and mixture unit. Numerous experiments have been conducted to test for true solutions; acid, base or neutral solutions; and which solution is water? Next, we will review the biomes of the world and begin working on the earth's biosphere.

All of the math classes are working on mastering basic skills in fractions. This includes changing fractions to decimals. Soon we will begin our work with proportions, ratio and percent. Each week finds us reviewing some topics for the upcoming CMT which will be given in March. The math portion is given over a three day period and incorporates a variety of skills. Encourage your child to use estimation whenever possible at home and when you are out shopping as this is a skill that is heavily tested. There are opportunities to use and talk about math every day. Get your child to begin thinking mathematically. "Is our backyard as long as a football field?" "How many centimeters long is this line?" "How many bags of salt will it take to sand the walkway?" "Our bill is \$30.00, how much money should we leave if we give the waitress a 20% tip?" Number sense comes with years of practice and thinking about numbers.

In Language Arts, students are working on a novel unit based on "courage." Students have also recently learned how to use an online writing tool (www.cbaswrite.com) which can instantly give feedback and offer suggestions for revision. Their work is stored online in this database and they will be able to see their progress as they continue through LMS. Log on with your child and take a peek at his or her work!

**Eighth Grade Mid-Winter News**

In Language Arts, we are finishing up The Diary of Anne Frank unit. Students will connect to Anne Frank and step into her shoes through a diary project in which they will identify with the characters and events of the Secret Annex. We will be concluding the unit with a Holocaust speaker and watching Freedom Writers, which ties into our themes of hope and adversity. The classes will then be preparing for the Connecticut Mastery Test, learning and reviewing strategies and practicing skills in order to prepare for the test in March. Students should be continuing to work on their job shadow projects. When going to their job site, they need to make sure to have their Interview Packet questions and bring a camera to take pictures!

Mr. Curtis & Mr. Conley came in and spoke to the eighth grade about the Constitution and specifically the fourth amendment. Both are detectives in the city of Norwich and have children in the school system. The eighth graders had an opportunity to hear more in-depth information about the 4th amendment and ask them questions. We would like to thank them for coming in and volunteering their time to talk to us! We are switching gears and beginning our unit on the Holocaust in Civics. We are examining the events through the lens of perpetrator, victim, bystander, and activist. This allows students to make present day connections with the decisions they make as well. Students will receive an overview of topics of study. Please contact me at erin.gaucher@lebanonct.org if you have any questions about this unit of study. Students should continue to keep up with current events.

We are starting our Forces and Motion unit which is our last unit in Physical Science! We will be discussing Newton's laws of Motions and completing our CMT required lab; Shipping and Sliding which focuses on factors affecting friction. Students will be developing their own experiment and writing a formal lab report. We are continuing to work on the quality of our labs and trying to create high school ready conclusions.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

National School Counseling week is February 6th – February 10th. This week allows school counselors all over the nation to celebrate their outstanding students!

Ms. DeLong will spend the week discussing with students, ways that they can be successful. She will be sponsoring a school-wide essay contest and broadcasting a message each day over the morning news. Other surprises may be in store for students as well!



HONORS APPLICATIONS

Students who wish to apply for honors courses in English, History, Math, Science and/or Foreign Language will receive an honors application during our scheduling sessions February 1st. The English/History honors writing prompt will be given on Wednesday February 22nd during B and C periods for any students applying for Honors English and World History. The honors applications are due back to Ms. DeLong by February 16th.

9th Grade Course Selection

This month our eighth grade students will be selecting courses for their ninth grade schedules. All students will be scheduling for Lyman regardless of whether they applied to Tech school, Magnet school or a Private school. This will ensure that all students have a schedule at Lyman next year in the event that original plans do not work out.

On Tuesday January 31st and Wednesday February 1st during science class, students will review the course selection process and discussing what the expectations are at the high school, how many credits are required to graduate, what courses they are required to take each year, what happens if they don't get the elective they want, and more. On Thursday February 2nd teachers will be meeting with students individually in all of their core classes and giving students their level recommendations for next year.

On Friday, February 3rd during their Civics classes they will meet individually with Ms. DeLong to finalize their course selection sheet before brining it home for a parent signature. All course selection sheets are due back to homeroom teachers by Tuesday February 7th. All honors applications will be due back to Ms. DeLong by Thursday February 16th. The 9th grade program of studies is available to review on the high school's webpage (www.lebanonct.org). The program of studies lists courses with descriptions of classes that are available to 9th grade students. If there are any questions, Ms. DeLong would be happy to answer them.

!!Attention!!
Parents of 6th Grade Students



The state of Connecticut requires that all students have a blue State of CT physical form on file with the school nurse **BEFORE** entering into 7th grade.

Requirements:

1. Parent completes 1st page of Blue State of CT Physical Form
2. Health Care Provider completes page 2
3. Be sure all areas with * are completed
4. New Immunization requirements to enter 7th Grade:
 - **One dose Tdap vaccine (combined tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis)**
 - **One dose of Meningococcal vaccine**
 - **Second dose of Varicella vaccine or proof of Chickenpox disease**

**PHYSICALS ARE REQUIRED
 EVERY TWO YEARS TO
 PARTICIPATE ON A SPORTS
 TEAM**

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME:

- 24 hours after the last time they have vomited
- 24 hours after the temperature has returned to normal
- 24 hours after the first dose of an antibiotic for strep
- If temperature is over 100
- If coughing or sneezing excessively, or has excessive nasal secretions
- If they wake up with red eyes and have a crusty drainage

WHEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER AN INJURY OR HOSPITALIZATION:

- The student must first report to the nurse
- A doctor's note is required to return to school and/or be excused from gym
- No student is allowed to wear a cast, splint, sling, ace bandage, or to use crutches or wheelchair without a doctor's note

MEDICATIONS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE CARRIED BY STUDENTS

This includes both prescribed and over the counter medications as well as topical creams. Epi-pens and inhalers may be exceptions with proper documentation. They are not allowed to transport medication to and from school. Do not send any type of medication to school and ask the nurse to give it to your child. This requires a doctor's authorization. The school nurse only has acetaminophen, ibuprofen, cough drops, Calagel, hydrocortisone cream, and tums. We have nothing for coughs, colds, congestions, allergies, nausea or diarrhea.



The Lebanon Middle School
Parent Association
Is sponsoring the
Following Course



Babysitting & CPR TRAINING

In Babysitting You'll Learn How To:

- Make decisions
- Interview for a babysitting job
- Choose safe and age appropriate toys and games

In CPR & First Aid You'll Learn How To:

- Handle an emergency or illness
- Perform first aid, including responding to life-threatening emergencies
- Recognize emergencies, check victims
- (Child & Infant CPR only covered)

Dates are as follows:

Babysitting Course - Wednesdays

- February 1st & February 9th (2:15 - 5:15) \$40
Or February 11th (9:00 - 2:00) in Franklin

CPR Course - Tuesdays

- February 15th & February 29th (2:15 - 5:15) \$40
Or February 25th (9:00 - 2:00) in Franklin

Babysitting and CPR Course Combined - Save \$15!

Total price = \$65

You may bring a snack to class

PLEASE NOTE: After school classes are held at Lebanon Middle School - Saturday classes are held at Franklin School

Classes are for girls and boys 11 and over. Students must attend the full session (6 hrs) in order to receive the American Red Cross certification. Registration Fee is \$40 each session. Registrations will be accepted on a first come basis. Transportation will be **REQUIRED** from session.

Return this form w/fee to school in an envelope marked "Mrs. Zerio/Babysitting"

Checks can be made payable to LMSPA

Classes Registering For:

Student Name

Address

_____, _____, _____

City, State, Zip

Phone # Email

Grade Birthdate

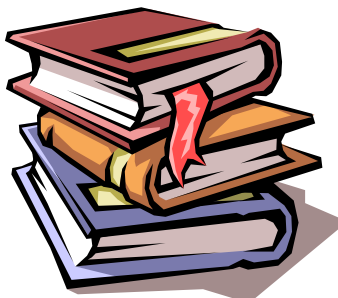
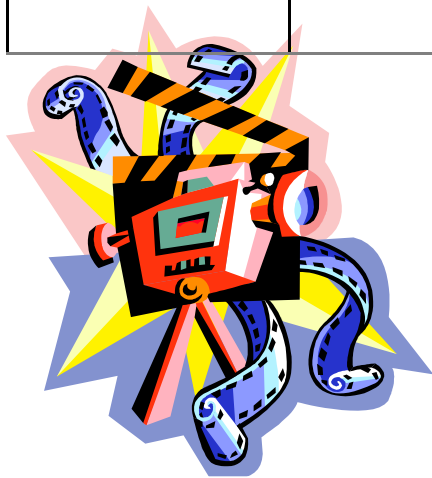
<input type="checkbox"/> Babysitting	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> CPR/First Aid	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Babysitting/CPR Combined	\$65.00

Subtotal :

Total:

FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 LMSPA Babysitting Class 2:15 - 5:15 PM	2 Student Council Meeting	3
SPIRIT WEEK				
6	7	8 Student Council Talent Show Tryouts	9 LMSPA Babysitting Class 2:15 - 5:15 PM	10 Movie Night/Panther Den 7:00 - 9:00 PM
NJHS Valentine Grams				
13 LMS Parent Advisory Meeting 7 PM in the Library	14 Student Council Talent Show Rehearsal	15 LMSPA CPR/First Aid Class 2:15 - 5:15 PM	16 Student Council Talent Show Rehearsal	17 Professional Day No School
NJHS Valentine Grams			Field Trip to Quebec - 2/16 - 2/19	
20 President's Day No School	21	22 Student Council Talent Show Rehearsal at Lyman	23 Student Council Talent Show Rehearsal at Lyman	24 Student Council Talent Show at Lyman @ 7 PM
27	28	29 LMSPA CPR/First Aid Class 2:15 - 5:15 PM		



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