

LONG BRANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL THE WISE WAVE

Principals' Perspectives

Leaders of the Month



Dear Long Branch Middle School Students, Staff, Parents and Community Members,

It is with great pride that we publish our first edition of "The Wise Wave" in which our goal is to highlight all of the positive educational and social experiences that the Long Branch Middle School (LBMS) staff provides and students participate in throughout the year. In our first edition, we are elated to share with you one of our new programs, Leaders of the Month. Through Leaders of the Month, we recognize one student from each grade and academy, based on their academic progress and/or demonstration of commendable social qualities. Every month, every teacher will nominate a student that is worthy of this recognition. This September, the principals struggled through the many fabulous recommendations to select three students from each academy for this prestigious award. The nine

students selected as our September 2013 Leaders of the Month were Benjamin Berry, Pia Cox, Kayla Ferreira, Elijan Jenkins, Justin Ravolo, Jennifer Sanchez-Morales, Josiah Scott, Devin Tazzetto and Vithoria Teixeira. Additionally, the LBMS administration selected a teacher of the month for each academy based on their outstanding instruction, leadership and contributions to the school and community. The Teachers of the Month for September were Ms. Alexander, Ms. Alston and Ms. Davis. Our leaders of the month celebrated by participating in a special luncheon with Mr. Vitarello, Ms. Cruz and Mrs. Morgan.

We want to thank the members from each department who contributed articles for the launching of "The Wise Wave," our editing team Ms. Davis, Mr. De Angelis, Mrs. Hoyle and Mr. Smith.

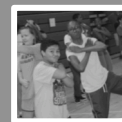
Sincerely,
Ms. Cruz, SCT Principal
Mrs. Morgan, LDR Principal
Mr. Vitarello, VPA Lead Principal



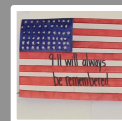
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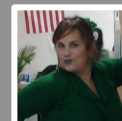
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Café 1160

The students in Mr. Porges's class are changing the overall morale of the middle school through Café 1160. Students operate a café that sells bagels, muffins, coffee, and tea to Middle School staff members. Many teachers look

forward to the food and spending time with the students. Students are developing career awareness by working as members of the café as greeters, cashiers, hosts, order takers, and delivery people.



English Language Arts Department

The Long Branch Middle School's English Language Arts department (ELA) provides a variety of research-based ELA programs that are catered to meet the specific needs of our students. Offering a range of programs ensures that our students are challenged at their academic level.

Our department goal is twofold: to demonstrate growth in reading and writing proficiency and to have our 8th grade students enter the high school reading and writing on or above grade level. The inclusion of multiple reading programs, along with Writer's Workshop, ensures that we are taking every measure to meet and exceed these goals.

So far this year, both our students and teachers have hit the ground running! Students have already completed their baseline Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) and Words Correct Per Minute (WCPM) assessments and submitted their

summer reading assignments. Our teachers, some of whom are new to our building or are teaching a new reading/writing program, have been working together to build an outstanding ELA community. After only one month, everyone is on their way to improving student achievement!

Have a great school year!

Louis P. De Angelis and
Kimberlee Hoyle

LBMS ELA Curriculum Facilitators

The Cat in the Hat is Back.....

Just when you thought he went away....the Cat in the Hat is back to play! LBMS is starting a new reading initiative called "Read to Succeed." Surely, students heard about this in their homerooms. So, here is your chance to become a better reader, read anything you want, and win prizes...all at the same time. Let's not forget our principals' challenge. What will your principal do for you???



All teachers need to do is promote recreational reading and give students literary opportunities. All students need to do is READ! 6th grade - 6 hours, 7th grade - 8 hours, and 8th grade - 10 hours. Log in your hours and make sure to get them in by the specified dates and you'll be well on your way to fun, smarts, and some special celebrations. Remember, you have to be in it to win it...so get your read on!!! Happy Reading!
Ms. Mattia

STARTING OUT WITH A BANG!

The Visual and Performing Arts Department here at Long Branch Middle School has once again hit the ground running!

Just two days after beginning the new school year, 7th and 8th grade members of the Chorus turned in a highly acclaimed performance at the LBPS 9/11 Memorial Ceremony held at LBHS. Rave reviews were received from students, teachers and administrators alike, most notably our Superintendent, Mr. Salvatore. Kudos to Mr. Whitmore!

The Drama Club is currently



Mr. Whitmore, Mrs. Skalecki, Mr. Stout,
and Miss Catrambone

in the exciting process of casting their fall production of *Café Murder*, a riveting murder mystery featuring thrills, chills and lots of laughs that is destined to light up the George P. Beaver

Auditorium this November 14th & 15th at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Skalecki is sure to have a winner on her hands with this one.

As you can see, we are already very busy, but we hope that you join us in looking forward to more in the coming months.

Coming very soon: concerts (Winter Concert ~ Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30pm featuring the LBMS Concert Band, Concert Chorus and Dance Club), competitions and this year's spring student/faculty musical!



LBMS Fitness Fever.....

Catch it!!!

The philosophy of LBMS's Health and Physical Education program is to develop both the mind and the body through movement. Physical Education is an integral part of a student's education that contributes to their overall growth and development. It is our goal to provide a safe and positive Physical Education experience and to have the students gain a lifelong appreciation for the importance of living a healthy life and staying active. Classes consist of individual, team, and group activities that place an emphasis on participation, cooperation, and success through personal goals. As always, there will be a continued emphasis on nutrition and health through activities in our health classes.

This year we are designating two days per week to strictly fitness activities. These activities will include fitness testing, low impact aerobics, circuit training, and many other fun fitness activities. This will increase student's aerobic capacity and core strength. Students will also be tested on aerobic capacity as well as muscular strength. These tests include a 200-meter run/walk, pushups, sit-ups, and a flexibility test.

All of this information can be found on our new website. Just go to the school homepage, click departments, and click Health and Physical Education.

History

Linking Our Past to the Present and Leading Us into the Future

History is the story of our past. This important story of our history is told through an informative and richly illustrated narrative with special features that enliven the study of history. Our goals are to help all students develop a strong understanding and appreciation of history, understand how history influences life today, recognize connections between history and other disciplines, build a solid Social Studies and academic vocabulary, develop thinking skills that support the ability to challenge assumptions, think creatively, and solve real-life problems while having fun!!

“A Day We Will Never Forget...9/11”



We explored the significance of memorials to develop a deeper understanding of how events throughout history can impact us all and for some will alter their lives forever. September 11, 2001, is a day that many will never forget and one that should be remembered by all. The 6th, 7th and 8th grade Social Studies classes created a memorial to pay tribute to all of the heroes on that tragic day. Each student created their own square for our 9/11 Memorial Quilt. Take a moment to view our quilts that are hanging throughout the middle school to honor the lives of those taken on that horrible day and pay tribute to the truly indomitable spirit of America.

Math

The Long Branch Middle School’s Mathematics Department is excited for the 2013-14 school year. We have added new programs to simultaneously enrich our students’ learning and challenge them. The two biggest implementations for this school year are “Connected Mathematics 3” and “Math 180.” Soon we will be including Scholastic Math Inventory (SMI - similar to SRI) for all of our math classes.

Our goal this year is to continue to strive for growth for all students through the use of technology and student discovery. A hands-on approach and real world application are vital for student understanding and mastery in mathematics. The new “Connected Mathematics 3” enables students to use an investigative approach to learning mathematics. In addition, the “Connected Mathematics” emphasizes hands-on, cooperative and problem solving approaches to learning mathematical concepts and their application to the real world. Students will use manipulatives, calculators, and their computer knowledge to think, write, and communicate mathematically on a daily basis.

We are off to a great start and we are looking forward to an awesome year with many success stories about our students and teachers!

Lois Alston & Kiley Fallon
LBMS Math Curriculum Facilitators

Counselor’s Corner



The G-Team wants LBMS to know that we are here to talk to you about ANYTHING! School stuff, home stuff, friendship, conflict...even just to say that you got an “A” on a test! Come talk to your counselor!

Clubs & Activities

Student Council ~ Mrs. Mazza Once a month after school
Drama Club ~ Mrs. Skalecki Wed, Thur, Fri (more during show)
Yearbook ~ Ms. Davis 2-3 times a week
Morning Band ~ Mr. Stout Mornings 7:20-7:50
Guitar Ensemble ~ Mr. Stout
Science Club ~ Mr. White Every Wednesday 3-4
Natural Helpers ~ Ms. Rock/Mrs. Treshock Every Tuesday
Drug Free Club ~ Ms. Rock/Mrs. Treshock Every Tuesday
Photo Shop Club ~ Mr. Stewart Tuesday - Thursday
Homework Club ~ Ms. Graham/Mrs. Fallon Tuesday - Friday
Library Club ~ Ms. Mattia Tue and Thu (Lunch Bunch)
School Spirit ~ Ms. Olson Twice a month
Peer Leaders ~ Mrs. Frederick Twice a month
Sewing Club ~ Ms. Milchman Once a week
Afterschool Chorus ~ Mr. Whitmore Once a week
SoundWaves Chorus ~ Mr. Whitmore Once a week
Algebra Club ~ Mrs. Fallon Once a week
BBIP ~ Ms. Davi Monday before school 7:20am

Bilingual/ESL Department

The Bilingual/English as a Second Language (ESL) program at the LBMS recognizes the necessity for non-English speaking students to become proficient in English in order to be able to communicate with native language speakers and participate fully and successfully in all aspects of their education as well as society in general. The Bilingual/ESL program is one of the most comprehensive programs of its kind in the state of New Jersey. Our students come to us from a host of Latin American nations, in addition to other nations around the world including Brazil, China and Korea. Students enter the program at varying levels of English proficiency. These students range from non-English speakers to those who are close to proficiency and ready to exit into general education programs.



Our English Language Learners (ELL's) make up an important part of the SCT Academy. Principal, Ms. Cruz, and the department staff, Mrs. Nieves, Mrs. Ortega, Mrs. Pinto, Mrs. Sanders and Ms. Stubbington all work diligently to create an environment of learning for all our ELL's. Many of our bilingual students have been recognized for their academic accomplishments and for great success on the athletic field. Every year we are proud to see our students go on to further their education in the high school and, eventually, at local area colleges where they can become successful members of our community.



Special Education

The goal of the Long Branch Middle School Special Education Department is to make sure every student with an Individualized Education Plan receives the academic and social skills needed to be a productive member of society. Our students are required to complete all the rigorous academic standards set forth by the Core Curriculum Content Standards. With supplemental services and modifications to the curriculum provided by our highly-trained staff, each student is afforded the opportunity to meet these standards. Additionally, our students have the opportunity to participate in all clubs and activities that are offered at the Long Branch Middle School. Add parents to this mix and we have an awesome team working together to make sure each student receives the best possible educational experience ever!

Announcements



Fatima Majano reading the afternoon announcements...in Braille! Next time you see her, tell her how awesome she is doing!!

Five students have courageously volunteered to read the afternoon announcements.

They are:

8th grade ~ Anna Clara Sales ~ SCT

7th grade ~ Fatima Majano ~ VPA

7th grade ~ Maria Monzon ~ SCT

7th grade ~ Justin Ruvolo ~ SCT

6th grade ~ Denise Nicolas ~ SCT

It's not an easy job to read announcements for all the school to hear. They love that people are paying attention and listening when they speak. Great job ladies and gentlemen.

Students Model The Scientific Method and Academic Excellence

Students in the 7th grade SCT science classes conducted their own experiments the last week of September. As students were learning about the scientific method inquiries into different experiments began. The experiments were different for each class based on their observations and questions. The homework for each class was to write the procedural instructions for their experiment, which were followed during the experiment the very next class. The first experiment

was teacher supervised, the next two were student driven. Three experiments were conducted to get a more accurate data collection. During the experiments, each team collected their data. Each group shared their findings with the class and engaged in rich discussions. All required completed team Lab Sheets are displayed in the classroom.



Students in action conducting their experiments!

LBMS Catching the Wave of Spirit!



LBMS kicked off the first of many school spirit events with Green Wave Pride Day. Students participated by wearing green and white LB clothing and expressed their creativity with face paint and accessories to show off their Green Wave Pride. School Spirit Day was coordinated by the School Spirit Committee who will also be decorating the Columbus Day Parade float for the Middle School with the theme: LBMS, learning so much...its scary. The next school spirit event will be at the end of October. Look for the promotions so you can join in the fun! If you would like to be on the committee or have a great idea, see Mrs. Olson!