



LONGWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



December 2022

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December Dates & Events

- 12/06-09: PTA Holiday Gift Fair
- 12/08: Fall Picture Day Retake
- 12/08-09: Fifth and Sixth Grade Honor Roll Breakfasts
- 12/10: Character Adventure
- 12/13: PTA Meeting
- 12/19: Session 1 Clubs Ends
- 12/19-23: December Spirit Week



Monthly Recap

November proved to be a busy month as we launched the month with our Families for Families Dance & Chinese Auction. Thanks to generosity of those who supported this event we were able to raise money to help feed families for the holidays. During this month we also began after school clubs and had our parent-teacher conferences.

While November was an exciting month for our school community, we are excitedly looking forward to all that December has to offer! Read more to see what is in store for our Longwood Middle School students!

REMINDER

Parents don't forget to order a yearbook for your child!

To place an order, simply go to **balfour.com**. There is no deadline as of yet, but if you would like to personalize your child's yearbook with their name, you should do that soon.

Yearbooks are on sale for \$25.00. Hurry and order what will be a wonderful keepsake!



LEARNING FOR THIS MONTH

FIFTH GRADE

ELA

In reading, 5th grade students are finishing up their fiction units of study and beginning non-fiction. Students will become acquainted with the structures and features of informational texts, both as readers, and as writers. Students will be taught the different types of non-fiction text structures, and how to use graphic organizers to help them comprehend what they are reading.



In writing, students will also focus on note-taking strategies and how to organize information for a research project. Students will learn that non-fiction authors write with the purpose to inform, explain, and/or give directions.



SOCIAL STUDIES

The 5th grade students will continue their unit of study on the first Americans of North and South America. They will discuss how the first humans in the Western Hemisphere modified their physical environment as they adapted to the environment. They will recognize that the first Americans' interactions with their environment led to various innovations and to the development of unique cultures.



MATH

For the next math unit, 5th grade students will be focusing on multiplying whole numbers and decimals. Within this unit, students will be working towards mastery of fluently multiplying multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm. They will also be using concrete models, drawings, or strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between operations to help them add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals to the hundredths place. Students will also work towards relating the strategy to a written method and explaining the reasoning used.

SCIENCE

The 5th grade students will begin their unit of study of the Earth's water cycle. They will discuss the importance of water as a natural resource. Students will investigate the distribution of water, how it cycles through Earth's systems, and explore how it affects human societies.



LEARNING FOR THIS MONTH



SIXTH GRADE

ELA

Sixth grade ELA students are continuing to work in our second unit, *The Impact of Word Choice*. Students will analyze figurative language to understand characters' thoughts and feelings. In addition, they will identify tone and mood based on the author's word choice.

In writing, students will move from writing strictly about reading, to writing a narrative where they will use figurative language and word choice to enhance their creativity.



MATH

The 6th grade math department is continuing their second unit of study, *Ratios and Rates*. Students are connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division, and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems. Students will develop a conceptual understanding of ratios and rates, including finding percentages and being able to relate these concepts to the real world.



SOCIAL STUDIES

The 6th grade students will continue their study of the ancient river valley civilizations of the Nile River Valley. They will analyze how these complex civilizations share the common characteristics of religion, job specialization, cities, government, language, record keeping systems, technology, and social hierarchy.

SCIENCE

The 6th grade students will conclude their unit of study on matter. They will discuss how particles in solids, liquids, and gases move, and what happens when matter changes state. They will use evidence to illustrate that density is a property that can be used to identify samples of matter.





LEARNING FOR THIS MONTH

SPECIAL AREA

ART

This month in art, 5th and 6th grade students will continue to learn, apply and understand the Elements of Art and Color Theory through various projects. The students will also begin to apply the use of perspective in their art, as well as explore, and become more familiar with the different materials artists use while creating art. They will be using paint and oil pastels to complete a variety of different artworks throughout the month.

MUSIC

Within music class, students in 5th and 6th grade are beginning brand new units. In 5th grade, students are either beginning, world drumming, or piano playing, which will result in a keyboard recital at the end of January. In 6th grade, students are beginning either the study of music production, or the history of jazz music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Depending upon the weather and the field conditions, the physical education department will be continuing with the units that were started in November (football, soccer, tennis, and ultimate frisbee). When necessary, the physical education classes will be held in the Activity Court while the gymnasium remains under construction. Large group games, competitions, and fitness testing are the indoor activities for classes.

LIBRARY

This month, many classes will be cozying up with a good book as students continue with their genre project. In addition to trying new genres, students will be working on non-fiction book projects.

PERFORMANCE GROUPS

All 5th grade performance students are reviewing note reading, posture, breath control, and fingerings. All students should be bringing their instrument, folder, book/music, and signed practice logs weekly. Later this month, 5th grade students will be receiving bus permission slips for early morning rehearsals which will begin in January.

All 6th grade band, orchestra, and chorus students have been working hard to get ready for their first Winter Concert on January 11th. Letters with concert information and a rehearsal schedule were handed out last week. Please have your child see their music teacher if they did not get one. In addition to our Tuesday early morning rehearsals, we will also be having in-school rehearsals beginning on Monday, December 5th. Please have your child check the schedule to see when they need to have their instrument and music. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's music teacher.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND WELLNESS

WELLNESS NEWS

SEL

The SEL Instructional Coach will be working with students on building resilience this month. Resilience is the ability to "bounce back" when something difficult happens. Students will be working on positive affirmations as a way to build their confidence and develop skills to manage challenging situations. Classes will create a "toolbox" of resources to use when times get tough.

Parent Tip: Practice using positive affirmations at home.
Example: *I can do hard things! I am awesome! I am strong!*

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

This month the School Counselors are doing interactive lessons in each classroom assisting students to identify different levels of feelings, how to recognize big emotions, and when to utilize positive coping strategies to regulate their emotions.



SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

The school psychologists assist students with personal, social, behavioral, and educational needs. They can help families to understand the short-term, long-term, and chronic difficulties that interfere with learning.

If you have questions, or need assistance, with any of the following areas, do not hesitate to reach out to one of the psychologists:

- Special education programs and services
 - The assessment process for special education services
 - Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and who may be eligible for Special Education
 - Direct you to the appropriate information for your child with a 504 plan
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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND WELLNESS



WELLNESS NEWS

SOCIAL WORKERS

Happy December Longwood Middle School Families! The holidays are upon us. The weather is brisk, the malls are crowded, and there are twinkling lights everywhere. Despite all the preparation madness, we are looking forward to coming together as a community and family to spend some much needed quality time together. There is no doubt that this is equally the most wonderful and stressful time of the year. But the LMS Social Workers are here to help by making sure you are practicing Self-Care, so that you can give yourself the gift of peaceful moments and emotional wellness through the season. Here are some tips and tricks to kick the holiday stress and winter blues:

- Stay hydrated, nourished, and make time for exercise. Meeting your basic physical needs are key factors in keeping your energy levels and mental health in check.
- Get your sleep on! Rest is important, so be sure you and your loved ones are getting ample amounts of sleep each and every night.
- Take breaks. Taking a few minutes to deep breathe, sit with yourself in silence, or listen to relaxing music, can make a huge difference in the way we feel.
- Say no! Setting boundaries with situations that drain you of your energy and cause you to feel overly stressed can help you avoid stretching yourself too thin.
- Be present. While trinkets and toys are nice, giving yourself and your family the gift of your full attention is the most valuable present you can give.



WHO TO CONTACT

School Counselors:

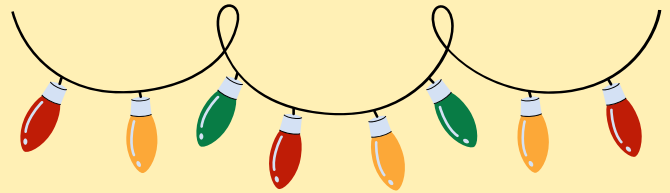
- Ms. Garbacz = Last Names A - K
- Ms. Horsham = Last Names L - Z

School Social Workers:

- Mrs. Cunningham = Last Names A - K
- Ms. Aponte = Last Names L - Z

School Psychologists:

- Dr. Anne Arndt
- Mr. Keegan Johnson



SPECIAL NOTE

If your family is in need of gift assistance during the holiday season, please contact Ms. Aponte or Mrs. Cunningham, School Social Workers, to sign up for Holiday Help. You will need to provide your first and last name, your child(ren)'s name and age(s), and the best contact number to be reached.

Requests must be made by Friday, 12/09/22.

The Longwood MS staff can be reached by phone at 631-345-2735 or by email at:
amanda.aponte@longwoodcsd.org or
shardae.cunningham@longwoodcsd.org.
