

APRIL 2025



Leopard Newsletter

This Edition Brings You:		
iReady Diagnostic	TK & Kindergarten Field Trip	Mental Health & Autism Awareness
After School-Earth Day	Benchmarks	CAST State Testing—8th Grade

A Season of Growth and Connection

As we move into the final stretch of the school year, we reflect on the meaningful connections and growth we've experienced as a school community. Our students have shown great progress on their i-Ready and Benchmark assessments, demonstrating the hard work and dedication that has been cultivated throughout the year. TK and Kindergarten students enjoyed a memorable field trip to Underwood Family Farms, where hands-on learning brought smiles and new discoveries.

In our after-school program, students celebrated Earth Day by embracing environmental stewardship and creativity. With just over a month left, we look ahead with optimism and purpose. By continuing to show compassion and grace to one another, we nurture a culture where all individuals feel supported, valued, and empowered to finish the year strong.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

— William Butler Yeats

Team Lashon!

Academic Growth and Readiness Update

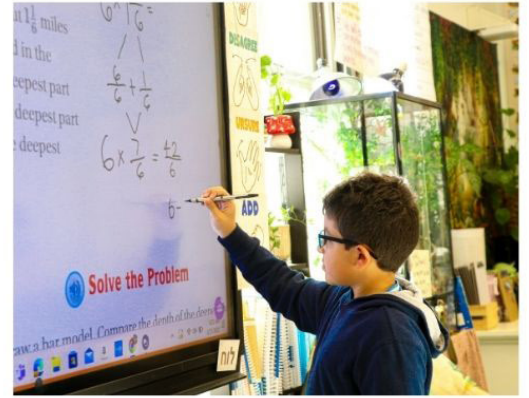
We are pleased to share the continued academic growth taking place across our classrooms. As we approach state testing season, students are demonstrating increased readiness, particularly in the upper grades. Consistent attendance, timely arrival, and participation in our school breakfast program all contribute meaningfully to student success.

In grades K–2, benchmark assessments have been aligned with goals for the upcoming academic year. From the beginning of the year to now, students have been steadily building the foundational skills needed to transition confidently to the next grade level.

We encourage families to engage in meaningful conversations with their children about academic progress. Ask your student if they are aware of their most recent assessment scores. If they are unsure, please encourage them to speak with their teacher. Strengthening the home-school connection is key to supporting student achievement.

Looking ahead:

- **Data Binders** will be available for review during Open House at the end of May. These binders offer a comprehensive view of each student's academic progress.
- **i-Ready** continues to serve as our schoolwide assessment platform, supporting personalized learning across subject areas.
- **Benchmark** (Lashon Academy Writing) provides valuable insights into student performance and growth in writing, aligned with grade-level expectations.



"THE STRONGEST BRIDGE TO SUCCESS IS BUILT BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL."

Next Stop: CAST Success!

by Jonathan Abelson

Our 8th grade students have started taking the California Science Test (CAST), an important part of state assessments aligned with the California Adopted Next Generation Science Standards (CA-NGSS). This test is only given to 5th, 8th, and 11th grade students in all California public schools. A six-segment, multi-day test that is a comprehensive measurement of students' understanding of key science concepts from elementary and middle school science. Students are encouraged to meet the highest achievement in presenting their skills of thinking like scientists.

Participation and performance on the CAST help contribute to our recognition as a California Distinguished School—a title that celebrates excellence in academic achievement and equity. Every student's effort matters and contributes to our school's success and reputation. Let's encourage our 8th graders to do their best and show what they've learned!



TK and Kindergarten Visit Underwood Family Farms



Students from our Valley Village and Van Nuys Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes recently enjoyed a field trip to Underwood Family Farms. This hands-on experience brought classroom learning to life as students explored plant science through strawberry picking and learned about animal care during their visit with farm animals. The trip supported our science and environmental studies curriculum by offering students a meaningful connection to agriculture, nature, and the origins of their food. It was a day filled with discovery, engagement, and joyful learning.



"LEARNING GROWS WHERE LITTLE HANDS EXPLORE — FROM PICKING FRUITS AND VEGGIES TO MEETING ANIMALS GALORE!"

Celebrating Autism Awareness Week with Creativity, Compassion, and Color!

This Autism Awareness Week, our students came together to embrace the beauty of neurodiversity through a vibrant and meaningful activity. Each student crafted a colorful flower and wrote on its petals what makes them truly special. From unique talents and favorite hobbies to acts of kindness and brave dreams, every flower bloomed with individuality — a powerful reminder that being different is something to be celebrated.

Together, the flowers formed a stunning mosaic shape for the symbol for autism. This iconic symbol represents the complexity and diversity of the autism spectrum. The interlocking pieces reflect how every person with autism brings a unique perspective to the world, and how we all fit together to build a more inclusive, understanding community.



Thank you to the staff, parents, and students who participated in the AUT2Run marathon at Cal State Channel Islands! Together, we raised money to support people with autism by improving their lives through access to vital services and resources.

GO TEAM LASHON!!

"AUTISM DOESN'T COME WITH A MANUAL. IT COMES WITH A FAMILY WHO NEVER GIVES UP."

💡 Did You Know?

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects about 1 in 36 children in the United States (CDC, 2023).
- Autism is not a disease — it's a neurological variation that influences how people perceive the world, communicate, and interact.
- Early intervention and acceptance are key in helping autistic individuals thrive.
- Many people on the spectrum have exceptional abilities in areas such as music, mathematics, memory, and visual arts.

Our school's celebration wasn't just an art project — it was a heartfelt effort to spread awareness, encourage empathy, and honor the uniqueness in us all. By learning about autism and recognizing the strengths of neurodivergent individuals, we take important steps toward a kinder, more inclusive future.

Let's keep the puzzle growing — with love, with understanding, and with pride.

Mental Health Awareness Week: Building Brighter Minds with Kindness and Conversation

Our school came together to shine a light on an important topic — mental health. In honor of Mental Health Awareness Week, our classrooms were filled with positive energy, reflection, and compassion. From staff to students, everyone took part in creating a supportive and mindful atmosphere.

Teachers took special moments during class time to talk openly with students about emotions, stress, empathy, and the importance of checking in on ourselves and others. These conversations helped normalize mental health as a part of everyday life — just like physical health — and empowered students to express how they feel.

Did You Know?

- **1 in 6 children aged 6–17 experience a mental health disorder each year (CDC).**
- **Half of all mental health conditions begin by age 14, but most go undiagnosed and untreated.**
- **Kindness and connection are proven to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression in children.**
- **Talking about feelings helps build emotional literacy — a key skill for managing life's ups and downs.**
- **Children who feel safe, heard, and supported at school are more likely to succeed socially and academically.**

By weaving awareness into our daily routine, we're helping our students understand that it's okay to have tough days, it's okay to ask for help, and that mental health matters — every day. Together, we're planting seeds of resilience, empathy, and self-care that will grow for a lifetime.



**"MENTAL HEALTH...IS NOT A DESTINATION, BUT A PROCESS. IT'S ABOUT HOW YOU DRIVE, NOT WHERE YOU'RE GOING."
— NOAM SHPANCER, PH.D., CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY**



Epic Earth Day Adventures: A Creative Celebration in After School

We had an engaging and educational Earth Day celebration in the After School Program! Our students embraced their creativity while learning about the importance of environmental stewardship in a fun and meaningful way.

The Recyclable Monster – Our younger students got especially creative by crafting a “recyclable monster” who roamed the campus, collecting recyclable materials along the way. This imaginative project helped transform our campus into a vibrant, eco-friendly space and sparked conversations on sustainability.

Earth Day Headbands – The students designed vibrant Earth Day headbands using paper, markers, and stickers. This hands-on activity allowed them to explore their artistic talents while learning about nature and expressing their love for the planet through personalized accessories.

It was a heartwarming and enriching celebration filled with creativity, joy, and a renewed sense of gratitude for the environment.

Appreciating the Earth – We spent time outdoors, encouraging the students to connect with the natural world around them. From observing insects to feeling the breeze and soaking up the sunshine, we fostered an appreciation for the many wonders our planet offers, discussing ways we can all contribute to its well-being.

Thank you for reading!

lashonacadey.org

7477 Kester Ave. Van Nuys,
CA 91450
12326 Riverside Dr. Valley
Village, CA 91607

818-514-4566

