



5th Grade Lincoln Times October 2010

Here's What's Happening in 5th Grade!!!

5th Grade LARS Teachers

We are off and running for the new school year. We are focused on literacy and have begun the year with a new reading series. The first 2 weeks of school were spent getting to know our new reading series. It is called Literacy by Design and is published by Rigby. Our LARS class is basically split into 2 sections. One being large group with explicit teaching of the lessons and the other being smaller guided reading groups. While we are reading with a small group, the other 2 groups will be reading or writing to self. We rotate the groups so we meet with all 3 groups at least 2-3 times a week. It all works like a well - oiled machine when everyone learns what a good reader and writer is supposed to be doing.

One thing that we need to tell you is that we will be using a 12 day cycle during LARS. This means that every DAY 1 the students will get a new spelling list and every DAY 5 there will be a spelling test. DAY 6 will be a catch up day used for anything we couldn't get in during the first 5 days. The new spelling list will be given on DAY 7 and the test will be on DAY 11. DAY 12 will be spent as another catch up day. If we happen to miss a day of school, for whatever reason, this cycle will enable us to teach freely without "cramming" 2 days into one. If you have any questions, contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Some of the teachers send a weekly newsletter or write on a blog. Please make sure you check your email or the website for important news from the 5th grade.

Here's What's Happening Around the Building!!!!

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, October 21, and Tuesday, October 26, 2010. Conferences are held in each teachers' classroom from 4:30 - 8:00. If you need a map of the building or directions, please check in the office.

Art and Music

We are working on the following projects in art:

5th Grade: Shape Design

- (1) Learn how artists use repetition and balance to create an artwork
- (2) To learn the difference between symmetrical and asymmetrical balance
- (3) To use repetition of shape, color and pattern to create an asymmetrically-balanced artwork

Fifth graders at Lincoln have been discovering meter in music and have conducted songs. Students have learned songs in Spanish, learned musical terms such as ties and done breathing exercises as well as dancing. Soon they will begin practicing for a concert coming up at 7:00 P.M. November 23, 2010 at the Washington Community Center.

Music Notes - Mr. Hughes

The key to success with a musical instrument is regular practice. Below are a few strategies to help you.

1. Schedule a practice time. I am a professional musician and I love to play my trumpet, but if I don't set aside a specific time to practice I will always find something more urgent to do.
2. Make the instrument accessible whenever possible. If the instrument is ready to play, it is less of a hassle to practice. This works much better for brass and percussion than it does for woodwinds.
3. My favorite! Practice while watching TV. In a 30 minute show, there are about 10 minutes of commercials. In an hour-long show, there are about 20 minutes of commercials. If that time is used for practicing, a Monday through Friday half-hour show also becomes 50 minutes of practice time each week.

No matter when practice is done, it is best to do it in short bursts. Three,

10 minute sessions are better than 30 minutes straight. This helps the brain absorb and process the information easier. This also applies to homework in other classes.

Happy Practicing!
Mr. Hughes

5th Grade ELP - Mrs. Sieren

I am glad that the year is off to a great start! I have entered most of your e-mail addresses into my address book, so my plan is to correspond with you by sending out quick messages that way. I most recently sent a message out about the rocket activity at the library. If you are not receiving these messages from me, please write a note and send it with your child. I have been known to make mistakes when typing!

I will send out an e-mail telling you which night I plan to be at parent-teacher conferences this year. I split my time between the two buildings, so I am only obligated to be at Stewart one evening and Lincoln one evening. As of now, though, my plan is to be at Lincoln on Tuesday, Oct. 26.

Keep in touch!

Mrs. Sieren

FALL PICTURE RETAKES

Picture retake day at Lincoln Elementary will be on Wednesday, October 13th. If students missed pictures on September 2nd, they will need to get their picture taken on this day. If students have decided to purchase a picture package, but did not earlier, they may have them retaken for picture purchase. Please have them bring their picture envelope with them on retake day. More envelopes are available in the office. If a picture package was purchased, but you are not happy with the pictures, please have your student bring back the package and they may be returned and a new picture taken for replacement. If you have any questions, please give the office at call at 653-3691.

NO SCHOOL/EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS IN OCTOBER

1:10 Dismissal - Friday, October 1 - Homecoming - Buses will run as normal.
NO SCHOOL - Friday, October 25 - Teacher Technology Training and Workday

LINCOLN PTG

It's fundraising time 2010! The families of Lincoln PTG are again selling delicious Red Wheel fundraising items. Packets will be sent home on Friday, October 8th. All orders and payment must be returned to Lincoln by Tuesday, October 26th. Items sold will be available for pick up on Wednesday, November 17, from 2:45 PM – 6:00 PM at Lincoln Elementary. It is important that you pick up your items as they are delivered frozen.

If you signed up to help with food for Parent/Teacher Conferences, you will be getting contacted soon. Conferences will be held on October 21 and 26th at Lincoln this fall.

The Parent/Teacher organizations in the district are bringing Rudy Ruettinger to Washington to speak to all Lincoln, Jr. High and High School students on October 12. Rudy has a great story to tell and we would like to thank to all the students and parents that have supported this great motivational speaker and former collegiate football player at Notre Dame, known as the inspiration for the 1993 motion picture, "Rudy"!

Lincoln PTG has Washington Demon Water bottles for sale in the office. Cost is \$5.00 each.

Lincoln is also collecting the "Ranch Wagons" from Pizza Ranch pizza boxes and chicken boxes. Send the "Wagon" from the edge of each box to school with your student. The collection box is on the bench in the gym. The school will collect .25 for each "Wagon" collected. Thanks for your help with this fundraiser.

S.A.M. – Ryan Gratz



Dear parents,

Welcome to a new school year at Washington Community Schools! I'm excited to announce that I am the school administration manager or SAM for Stewart and Lincoln Elementary. This new position is designed to restructure the role of the principal.

Historically, principals have been managers: maintaining safe buildings, overseeing the budget, complying with regulations and mandates, coping with personnel issues, and communicating with parents. Now, the principal's role has expanded to include accountability for student achievement. This means focusing more time and energy on training teachers to be their best, also known as instructional leadership. Studies have shown that the more a principal is an instructional leader, the better students achieve.

To allow for greater instructional leadership, the school administration manager or SAM role has been developed. As such, I will be working with teachers, students, and parents to promote our Character Counts program and manage behavioral issues so that Mr. Hoffman can focus more of his attention on improving student achievement. I'm looking forward to a great year working as your school administration manager to further develop quality schools in Washington, Iowa!

Your partner in education,

Ryan Gratz

GUIDANCE NOTES - MRS. BEENBLOSSOM

School is off to a great start! I have been in your child's classroom four times so far this year working on SCRaM (Skill Lessons, Character Counts, Read Aloud and Morning Meeting) lessons. Skill lessons, which are lessons they will need for life, have been our focus. The bully rules, the definition of bullying, teasing vs. taunting, and how to fill out a bully form were gone over the first week. This past week we went over the "Deal o Meter." This is determining if something that happens is a big deal or a little deal. Talk to your child about, "Even if" statements...Even if I get a bad grade on the test, I'll be ok, because I can work harder to raise my grade. This is good practice for them when it comes to dealing with situations. Have your child teach you what we have learned in SCRaM. It is a great way for them to remember and reinforce what we have done! Don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions!

Notes from the Principal

Fire Prevention Week is October 4-8. An Operation Edith (Exit Drills in the Home) sheet is included in this newsletter. Please take time to work out an escape plan for your family. Lincoln Elementary will be hosting the Washington Fire Department on October 5. The Fire Department will be bringing their smoke house to Lincoln. Students will learn how to crawl below the smoke to safety, through the smoke filled house, simulating a real house fire. The smoke is nontoxic and harmless to the students. Students will also learn about grease fires and dealing with electricity.

You should have received your son/daughter's progress report on Friday, September 17. Your child should have brought their progress reports home unless you chose to view it online. Hopefully the progress report was easy to read and you had a chance to discuss with your child their academic progress. These reports will be sent home at four and eight weeks of every trimester. Please contact a teacher if you have any questions or concerns on your child's progress report.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held October 21 and 26, from 4:30-8:00. We are hoping for an excellent turn out. Parents are encouraged to track their child's progress on the school management system, PowerSchool. If you are busy and have trouble finding time to log in and check your child's progress, an easy way is to have it e-mailed to you. Go into PowerSchool. Across the top, find the icon that says, "E-mail notification." Put a check in the box that says, "Summary of current grades and attendance." Select how often you would like the e-mail sent and add your e-mail address at the bottom. You will now receive the grades daily, weekly, etc. If you have questions about the system, contact Tricia Bell at Lincoln Elementary School (653-3691).

Thank you for your support!

David Hoffman, Principal
Lincoln Elementary School

District Equity Statement

It is the policy of the Washington Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, creed, marital status, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. If you believe you have (or your child has) been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact Dr. Mike Jorgensen or Mrs. Veta Thode at 319-653-6543.