



Lincoln Times 4th Grade Edition March 2011

Reading, Language Arts, and Spelling

We started Theme 9 the last week in February. During this theme, the comprehension strategy we are working on is making connections. When we make connections, we relate what we read to other texts, to ourselves, and to the world. We also have been learning about how prefixes added to root words change the meaning of the word. We have learned about the prefixes non-, in-, dis-, re-, and pre-.

Towards the end of the month we will be starting Theme 10. The comprehension strategy for theme 10 is finding the purpose for reading and then deciding if the information in the text is important or not for our purpose.

One activity that you can do with your child is to explain all the different reasons why we read each month. For example, as you drive you read street signs, decide together which signs would be important if your purpose for driving was finding a gas station.

During theme 10 we are going to be learning many different abbreviations, some of them are, streets, months, states, and days of the week. We will also be learning about pronouns in theme 10.

Don't forget to study your child's spelling words with them. The words can be found in the back of this newsletter.

SCIENCE - Mrs. Timmins

Happy spring!!!! This month in science your child will continue to explore electricity. At the end of the unit, he/she will explore parallel circuits, design and build a flashlight, as well as design the wiring for a cardboard house containing four rooms. Each room will have a light, which can be turned on with a switch and be wired to a central electrical source like that of a breaker box is in a real house. Check out your child's science binder to see what they have been learning. There will be a test covering different types of circuits, vocabulary words used during labs and a packet of information.

Social Studies

Happy March! Hopefully you are all ready for spring. We sure are here at Lincoln!

We will learn about the history and economy of the Middle West region in our next unit this March. In this unit, students will learn about the Pioneers, People of the Plains, Motor Cars and Detroit, and Today in the Middle West. We will also do a lesson on making generalizations. Students will also have to label the states in this region on a map along with others we've already learned.

Later in March we will be beginning the bringing history home unit over the Great Depression. It is the time period from the 1930's to the 1940's. This unit will be "untraditional" in the sense that we will be examining video, pictures, and documents and drawing our own conclusions about that time period in history. We will be looking at the stock market crash, how lifestyles changed, hobos, letters to the presidents, Hooverilles, the Dust Bowl, penny auctions, migrant workers, and the New Deal. We will also play a game at the end of the unit in which the students will have to synthesize all we've learned in the unit. We will again take a narrative test where students write a "story" based on some of the important terms we will learn about. On the test will be the words: Roaring 20's, The Great Depression, Dust Bowl, Penny Auctions, Migrant worker, Hooverville, and Unemployment. We will culminate the unit by watching "Kit Kittredge." Please have discussions about what your son/daughter is learning in social studies! It is also very important that your child is here at school because classes cannot be made up. That way he or she can participate in all activities, watch video clips, and participates in the discussions.

Math

The fourth graders will continue working on division during the month of March and begin an exploration of data analysis. They will learn what division means and make progress in their division skills while learning long division. It will be important for your child to work hard and not get behind on their homework as one skill builds upon the next skill. Some sample problems that you could work on at home during the month of March are: 48 divided by 4; 59 divided by 3; 78 divided by 3; and 108 divided by 5.

Students will also cover material about graphs and charts. Have your child read and analysis data found in charts and graphs from newspapers or magazines. Please encourage your child to practice math outside the classroom. Research shows that students who are provided with supplemental activities at home perform better on their homework and assessments.

Hoping for a great spring!

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

ELP

4th Grade ELP Parents,

We are finally off and running! It has been a long process and, I know, frustrating for everyone at times, but I really appreciate your patience.

Our first few days in class focused on some basic conversations about what being in ELP means and behaviors that are expected from ELP students. The next few class periods were spent preparing questions for the other schools involved in the quiz bowl competition. Finally, this week, we started a mini unit about newspapers. Our first lesson was a newspaper scavenger hunt. The next lesson involved writing creative headlines for various pictures. We will be writing comic strips, informational articles, and classified ads before the unit is over.

Our next unit will be preparing for the quiz bowl competition that will be held on April 20 in Washington. You will be receiving more information about the fine details of the day, as the time gets closer.

Mrs. Sieren

Art

Mrs. Humphreys

The students are finishing their animal drawings will begin mask making next.

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| Mask-making |
| Appreciate the masks of many cultures and the purpose of the masks. |
| Learn and apply mask-making techniques using plaster gauze. |
| Show self-expression through their mask. |

Music - Mrs. Hill

Lincoln 4th graders are just about to complete a unit where students are not only reading words, but looking at how the notes move. If the notes are high on the staff, students should make a higher sound with their voice, and if the notes are low, a low sound. We will have performance day soon where students can sing or play something for the class for extra credit. Fourth graders will soon be preparing for a concert at the High School on April 12, so mark your calendars!

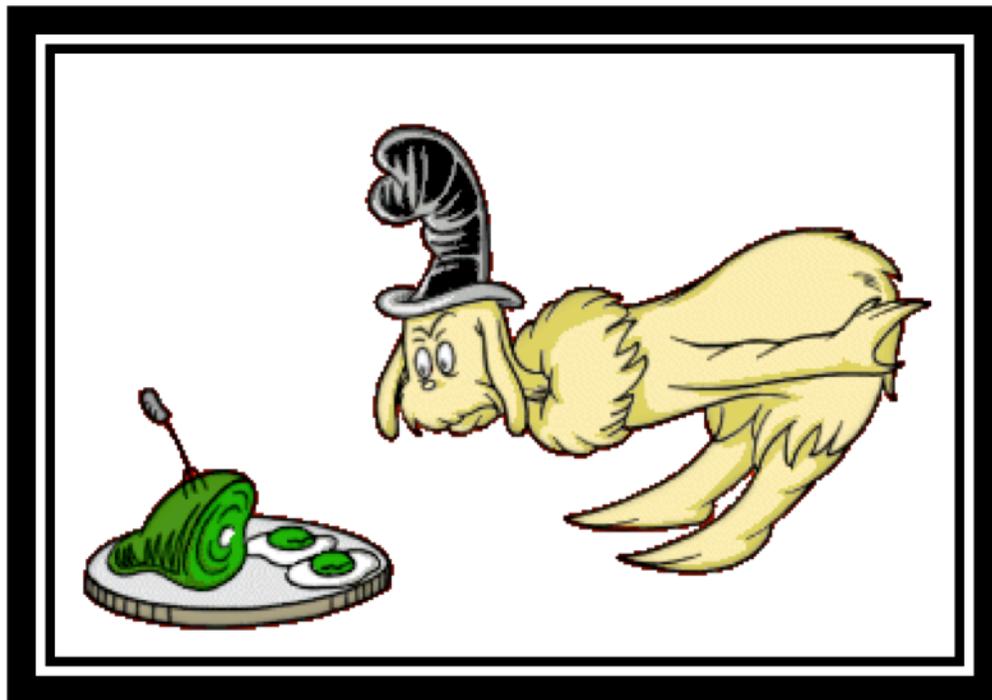
Media Center News Book Fair

A HUGE Thank You goes out to all who helped support the Lincoln Book Fair during VIP day on February 4th. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends for coming and checking out the book fair. A special thank you to those who helped work the book fair, it went very smoothly because of your help! Proceeds from the book fair help support the Lincoln PTO and help purchase new books for the Lincoln Media Center. Thanks again for your support.

Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration

We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday on Wednesday, March 2nd. Teachers will be reading their favorite Dr. Seuss book to their classes during their read aloud time on Wednesday. Students and Staff are encouraged to appropriately dress as their favorite Dr. Seuss character from any Dr. Seuss book on Wednesday.

Students will be hearing fun facts and quotes about Dr. Seuss all week during daily announcements.



Camp Invention

Creative Genius Wanted! Camp Invention at Lincoln Elementary School needs your help in designing an amusement park this summer. Imagination Point needs a new roller coaster and lots of other exciting rides! You'll also get to use real tools to take apart a mechanical device and work as a team to create a new invention! Then, you'll have to figure out how to survive when your spaceship crash-lands on an alien planet!

You'll find lots more fun things to do at Camp Invention. Camp will be held on June 6 - 10th from 9:00am to 3:30pm and will be presented by local teachers for girls and boys entering grades 1 - 6. Camp directors: Nancy Clawson and Julie Timmins.

The Grant Wood Area Education Agency, Van Allen Science Teaching Center and Washington Community Schools offer this national, non-profit science and creativity enrichment program in collaboration with Invent Now Kids and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Register by March 30th or with a friend and save \$25.00! For more information, call **800-968-4332** or go to www.campinvention.org.

Mrs. Beenblossom

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This year I have had the opportunity to come into your child's classroom four times a month to present guidance lessons. The first three months we discussed every aspect of bullying, teasing vs. taunting, conflict vs. bullying, big deal little deal among other topics.

This year we have gotten an influx in parental calls and student reports in regards to bullying issues. This is to be expected. Dr. Dan Olweus, program developer of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, a research based prevention program shares that once students are aware reporting goes up.

I want to make you aware that each bullying incident that is reported on a bully form and turned into the office is handled within 24 hours by either the principal, behavioral interventionist, or myself. In many cases the situation turns out to be a conflict. This is not a bad thing as I have the opportunity to assist children in how to deal with conflict in a controlled setting in my office. It's a great learning experience for all.

I will continue to educate your child in the classroom as to the difference between conflicts and bullying. I welcome your calls to inform, report or ask questions about your child or an incident that may have occurred.

Notes from the Principal

As of right now, our last day of school is Thursday, May 26.

If you are dropping your child off in the morning or picking them up at night, we would request that you park on Monroe St. (the street north of Lincoln) or 6th Ave. South (the street east of Lincoln). This leaves 4th Avenue in front of the school open for buses and reduces traffic. A path is plowed in the wintertime to 6th Avenue for the students to walk back and forth. If you do drop your child off in front of Lincoln, please have them use the crosswalk.

Raising a Reader- From the NAESP Raising a Reader

Reading is the most important skill your children will ever learn. It's the tool your child needs the most at school, and it is essential for nearly every job and career.

Learning to read takes time and it takes you. Reading isn't something children can just pick up, like learning to talk. It's complicated. Children need you to encourage them to work at it, and to keep trying if they get frustrated.

Your children also need to see how exciting reading can be. They will learn this every time you share a wonderful story with them, or open a book about fascinating people, places or things. It's up to you to show them that reading is far more than just a subject taught in school – it's the doorway to a lifetime of learning, creating, discovering, and succeeding.

Although your children will learn the nuts and bolts of reading at school, they still need the special one-on-one attention only *you* can provide.

Beyond books, are there other ways to boost my child's reading abilities?

There certainly are! Here are just a few:

- Go places, do things. The more experiences children have, the easier it is for them to read because of all the new ideas and vocabulary they are exposed to.
- Get your children involved in everyday reading – directions, grocery lists, recipes, labels, instruction manuals, and even the billboards and signs along the road.
- Read the newspaper and clip out articles or comic strips he'd enjoy.
- Limit television. If he's interested in a certain kind of TV show, look for some children's books or magazines that are the same style-action, comedy or sports- oriented, for example.

- Play games together that require reading and word skills, such as Monopoly, The Game of Life or Scrabble.
- Books on tape are fun, too. Pause the tape and talk about the story, the characters, or what might happen next.
- Encourage your child to be a writer. Keep paper and pencils available and show how proud you are of the stories he writes.

What should I do when my child makes a mistake when she's reading?

First, remember that all readers make mistakes. If he/she still understands the meaning of what they are reading to you don't need to be concerned. But if he/she is missing the meaning of the sentence or the story, they need your help. Wait a few seconds before jumping in – give them time to correct it on their own. If he/she doesn't notice the mistake, have them re-read the sentence out loud. Ask them to listen to hear whether every word fits.

If they're having trouble with a specific word, suggest that he/she look at it to see if it is similar to a word he/she does know. You might also want to see if he/she can figure it out by its context – by looking at the rest of the sentence, and seeing what word would make sense. If they're still puzzled, don't make them struggle. Tell them what it is. It's important to keep them from acquiring the habit of skipping over words he/she doesn't know.

Reading is the single most important skill children need to succeed in school. That's why it's helpful to make reading part of your children's home life every day. The more children read – and are read to – the better readers they'll become.

This week is Dr. Seuss's birthday. Have some fun with your child and a Dr. Seuss book. Look for the activities planned this week in honor of Dr. Seuss.

David Hoffman, Principal

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. Jorgensen or Mrs. Thode at 319-653-6543.