



# Lincoln Times 4th Grade Edition April 2011

## Here's What's Happening in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade!!!!

### Social Studies

Happy April! As the school year nears completion, make sure you keep having conversations about Social Studies. This will help students internalize the concepts being presented.

In Social Studies we will be continuing the bringing history home unit over the Great Depression. It is the time period from the 1929-1941. This unit is "untraditional" in the sense that we have been examining video, pictures, and documents, and drawing our own conclusions about that time period in history. We looked at the stock market crash, how lifestyles changed, hobos, and letters to the presidents. We will discuss Hoovervilles, 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 is a part of the discussions.

After the Great Depression unit, we will be looking at the environment of the Mountain States- Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. We will discuss and take notes on the Rocky Mountains, Snowy Peaks, and Mining in the Mountains. We will be again making a foldable that will be your child's study guide for the chapter. We will also be defining and using vegetation maps in the unit. Students will have to label the mountain states on a map.

4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers

## Language Arts, Reading, and Spelling

We will begin the month of April by finishing up Theme 10. We will then start Theme 11, Life in a Rain Forest, and we will be working on inferring and the difference between facts and opinions. When we identify facts and opinions, we decide if a statement can be proven true. One way that you can practice finding fact and opinion would be to look at advertisements in the newspaper or magazines. Decide which ads are facts and which give opinions.

During our writing time, we will be modeling and writing persuasive essays. We will also be working on our sentence fluency and making sure that our sentences flow through out our writings.

We will be learning about idioms and onomatopoeia. Idioms are common phrases that we use in our every day language. Examples are dime a dozen or it's raining cats and dogs. Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound it represents. An example of onomatopoeia is splash, wow, gush or kerplunk.

Our word study will be in pronouns and then a review of the skills that we have learned so far. Our spelling lists will involve those skills. There are lists for the month of April in the back of the newsletter.

## Science

Wow it is finally spring! In the month of April, your child will complete the animal unit and the drug unit. The third portion of the animal unit will be completed in the traditional manner of reading and completing worksheets. "How Animals Survive" will only take two weeks to complete. This portion will introduce ways that plants and animals adapt to their environment for survival. Your child will have about six assignments before a test.

The drug unit will be more inquiry based with the students teaching the unit to each other. Each child will be assigned to a specific group, which will then be given a topic to research. After time is given do the research, the group must develop a presentation, including everyone in the group, to present the material to the class. After all groups have presented, there will be a short test over the material.

The final unit, yes, the final unit will be the sound unit. Start saving junk that your child can use to develop a musical instrument at home. More information will be sent home once the unit begins.

## Fourth grade Math News

The fourth grade math classes have been studying their division facts during March. They will be working on long division during April. Students should be able to divide problems such as 39 divided by 3 and 108 divided by 4. They are also learning about remainders in division.

Students are also finishing a unit about coordinated grids. They have practiced finding objects located on a coordinate grid, practiced naming locations on a grid and learned about positive and negative numbers using a four quadrant grid. Your child will have a grid project to make that will be equal to a test grade.

Another concept that the students will be studying is probability. They will be working with coins, dice and spinners to understand the chance or probability of a situation.

Have a great spring!

## Art - Mrs. Humphreys

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Art

<b>Tool Drawings:</b>
Draw a variety of tools from observation.
Use the principles of repetition and rhythm to complete their drawing.

## Music - Mrs. J. Hill

Lincoln 4<sup>th</sup> graders have just finished a unit on melodic contour, which means they are learning how notes move up and down on the staff. Now, students are working hard on their concert coming up April 12<sup>th</sup>, at the high school auditorium at 7:00 P.M. The program is called "Jazz".

## ELP - Mrs. Sieren

Dear 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

We are working hard trying to get ready for the quiz bowl competition, which is April 20<sup>th</sup>. Your child should have brought home a list of questions and answers that need to be memorized. We will be working on finding information in reference materials in the next few weeks. Then we will be working on a variety of brainteasers.

Here are a couple of other things that you need to know.

1. Round 1 will be from **approximately** 9:30-10:45, Round 2 from 10:45-12:00, lunch from 12:00-12:30 or so, and then the last group will be from 12:30-1:45. Ask your child what "round" they are in. This will help you plan your day if you can only come for a short period of time.

2. Your child will need to bring a sack lunch and drink. I will have a cooler to keep drinks cool.
  3. Your child will be allowed to bring an i-pod, Nintendo DS, book, etc. They will need to be quiet when the other children are competing,
  4. I NEED SOME CHAPERONES. If you could help me by sitting in the stands with the Washington children. PLEASE let me know.
- That's all for now. Call or e-mail if you have any questions or can help me chaperone. Thanks!

Mrs. Sieren

### **System 44 News from Mrs. Shields**

4th grade Fast-trackers: Tailor and Brendan

5th grade Fast-trackers: Kylee, Mark, Jack, Kelton, Daegan, Jewel, Jack, Tiffany

6th grade Fast-tracker: Taylor

System 44 "Graduates": Tiffany, Kylee, Daegan, Jack

Topics covered recently:

- Prefixes, suffixes, roots
- Correctly writing a title
- Review of singular and plural possessives
- Syllables: open and closed, stressed and unstressed
- Spelling of high frequency words, how to go to [spellingcity.com](http://spellingcity.com)
- How to access TumbleBooks
- Fluency (pace, accuracy, expression)

William Penn reading practicum student Ms. Baumert has been helping in our System 44 classroom in a variety of ways. She has taught whole and small group lessons, assisted students with independent reading and writing work, and listened to students read. After completing her practicum she is volunteering in our classroom.

Students will complete a reading log this trimester. Each student set a goal for him/herself. I'll be checking with students on Fridays to monitor progress. TumbleBooks count toward the reading goal. (See below.)

Fun Web sites to visit:

- Practice spelling words and play games! Type in your own spelling list and practice at [spellingcity.com](http://spellingcity.com)
- Here's a different way to read books! Read them online with a narrator. This is a great way for challenged readers to access books. Google "Iowa City Public Library." When you get to the home page select "Kids" then "Reading," then TumbleBooks. Anyone can go to the site, even if you don't have a library card. All you need is Internet access.

Visit my blog by going to the WCSD homepage. Click on "Schools" then "Lincoln Elementary" then "Teacher Sites."

Mrs. Shields

Reading Specialist

Title 1/System 44 Teacher

## **The Doc Walk**

The Doc Walk is a fundraiser for ALL Iowa Soldiers, Iowa Veterans, and their families. "Doc" is a nickname given to Combat Medics by their fellow soldiers. The 134<sup>th</sup> Unit out of Washington is a Medical Unit and is full of "Docs." The Doc Walk is taking supply donations, and the supplies we raise will be sent to the troops overseas, that way they know people at home are thinking of them.

Examples of items being collected at Lincoln include: canned tuna, canned chicken, soup, Spaghetti O's, ravioli, cereal, granola bars, Pop Tarts, chips, coffee, drink mixes, beef jerky, fruit snacks, nuts, dried fruit or any non perishable, dry or canned goods. We are also collecting: deodorant (non aerosol), sun block (non aerosol), shampoo, liquid body soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and Chapstick. These are just suggestions and items are not limited to this list.

The first Doc **Walk** of 2011 is to be held Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. It will be at the high school track unless it is raining and then it will be held at the High School Gym. There will be a meal with free will donation, raffle, balloon let off and information for families of deployed soldiers about care package options. KCII Radio will also be at the Doc Walk doing a live broadcast and they will have the prize wheel there for people to register for the Disney Family Giveaway.

Lincoln Elementary is going an AWESOME JOB raising supplies for our soldiers! Thanks to those that have already brought in items. We will be collecting items until the last day of April. The class that raises the most supplies to send to our troops will win a pizza party on the last day of school!

To receive more information about the Doc Walk, contact Lindsey Becker at [docwalk\\_org@yahoo.com](mailto:docwalk_org@yahoo.com) or call 641-919-3509.

## **Spring Picture Date**

Spring pictures at Lincoln Elementary will be held on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. For Spring pictures, you do not send money at the time pictures are taken. Everyone will have a picture taken. Your finished portrait package will be sent home for preview. Simply return any picture sheets that you do not want to purchase with payment for pictures that you do want to buy. Please notify the office or your student's teacher if you do not want pictures taken of your child. If you have questions, please call the Lincoln office.

## 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 - 10<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> or with a friend and save \$25.00! For more information, call **800-968-4332** or go to [www.campinvention.org](http://www.campinvention.org).

## Notes from the Principal

If you are not using PowerSchool, the student management system, it is never to late to start. Using PowerSchool will allow you to check grades, attendance, and current lunch balances of your children. If you have questions on how to use this system, please contact Tricia Bell at Lincoln Elementary (653-3691).

With warmer weather coming, students will be breaking out the summer clothes. Below is the Washington CSD Dress Code Policy to help with any questions that you might have on proper dress attire.

### STUDENT APPEARANCE and DRESS CODE POLICY

1. Students are expected to dress appropriately for school.
2. A student's attire may not unreasonably infringe on the rights of other students to benefit from a productive, safe educational environment.
3. The major responsibility for appropriate dress and grooming rests with students and parents.

4. Students may not wear or display at school or school activities, dress, which can be seen as disruptive to the school environment or unreasonably infringes on others.

\*If the clothing is seen as disruptive or unreasonably infringing on others rights, the offending student will be required to correct the situation.

5. The following list includes examples of clothing which is considered inappropriate, disruptive or unreasonably infringes on others rights and is not allowed:

- A. Halter-style, back-less or strapless attire
- B. Bare midriff, chests torsos
- C. Thin t-shirts worn over colored undergarments
- D. Pants, slacks or shorts worn below the hips
- E. Pants, slacks or shorts with holes in inappropriate places
- F. Hats or other head coverings in the school buildings
- G. Clothing or accessories that:
  - 1. Promote the use of alcohol or drugs.
  - 2. Include profane or offensive language or pictures
  - 3. Include sexually inappropriate or racially biased material
- H. Bandannas are not allowed at school.

6. Students are to wear shoes or sandals.

7. Accessories that could be used as weapons are not allowed at school. This includes, but is not limited to, wallet chains and spiked jewelry.

8. Students are not allowed to use cell phones or electronic pagers at school.

9. If there are medical or religious reasons to make an exception to these rules, the parents must request an exception. Such an exception must be approved by the administration before the student can wear attire, which is an exception to the above policy.

The Washington Community Schools, with support from Bodywrx Fitness will be sponsoring a 5K Run/Walk and Mile Run/Walk on April 9, 2011, starting at 9 AM at the Washington Jr. High School (Registration starts at 8 AM.). The 5K Run/Walk will pass by each of the schools (High School, Jr. High, Lincoln and Stewart). The 5K Run/Walk and Mile run has been named the **Demon Dash for Cash**. It was organized to promote fitness and raise money for Washington Community School projects. All proceeds will be divided among the four schools and be used to promote physical fitness for the students. We would love to have you and your child participate. An application for the Demon Dash for Cash is also a part of this newsletter.

Sincerely,

David Hoffman, Principal  
Lincoln Elementary

### **Physical Plant and Equipment Levy**

The Washington Community School District voters will be asked to vote on April 5, 2011 to renew the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) for the district. This vote is to renew a levy that is already in place and is not a new or additional tax for the district. This levy requires a public vote every 10 years.

The Iowa code allows a school district to request as much as \$1.34 per \$1,000 as a PPEL levy. The Washington Community School District is only requesting \$1.00 per \$1,000, which is the current levy. Voting will be held from 7:00AM to 8:00PM, on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Registered voters can vote at the Courthouse in Washington or at the Community Center in Brighton. The last vote was held on September 11, 2001, and the district received 83.2% approval. The Mid Prairie Community School District received 85% approval last fall for a \$1.20 PPEL levy. Out of 351 districts in the state of Iowa, 249 have voted in favor of a Physical Plant and Equipment Levy during the current fiscal year.

Intended use of this levy include purchase of buses and vehicles for student transportation, school building repair, mechanical and plumbing repairs and the purchase of technology, including the purchase of lap top computers for students as a part of the high school 1-1 initiative in the fall of 2012. PPEL funds may not be used to pay salaries.

Any questions in regards to vote or the use of the PPEL funds may be directed to the Administration Office, 319-653-6543 or email [mjorgens@washington.k12.ia.us](mailto:mjorgens@washington.k12.ia.us) .

### **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.