



Lincoln Times

6th Grade Edition - October 2011

Here's What's Happening in 6th Grade!!!!

Social Studies

We have started out the year with two quick units over maps and Early Man. We are currently in our first big unit on World Religions. We are learning that the major religions in the world all have teachings and beliefs that match up with Character Counts.

Language Arts, Reading, and Spelling

Mrs. Adrian, Mrs. Phipps, Miss Wright

In LARS, students will be reading novels for our Adventure Unit. Students will get to select the book of their choice from the following list: *My Side of the Mountain*, *Sign of the Beaver*, *Julie of the Wolves*, *Hatchet*, *The Hideout*, *Far North*, *Danger on Panther Peak*, *Jim Ugly*, and *Touching Spirit Bear*. Students will learn how to use four different Literature Circles jobs before the unit starts. They will be responsible for reading their assignments pages, doing their Lit. Circle job, and participating in their Literature Circle group each day.

Science

The 6th grade scientists are in the middle of their botany unit, Fast Plants. Each table has planted two control and two experimental quads of Brassica seeds. They will be recording data to see how changing one variable affects the growth and development of these plants. Ask your student about how the Brassica plants have been used by they astronauts at NASA!

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress in science class, please contact me.

Math

Mrs. Swift & Mrs. Thorius

In 6th grade math, we started the year off with an introduction to *Geometry*. This is an area seen during our ITBS testing in November so we wanted to get this unit introduced right away. We will continue to review *Geometry* weekly to prepare. Our next unit we have started deals with place value and rounding of whole numbers and decimals. Understanding whole numbers and decimals is a very important foundation to many math topics they will explore in 6th grade.

Each day we begin the class with some sort of math review opener. This is a great way to practice our skills and become better math students! We will also learn how to take notes and work on example problems to prepare us for our daily homework assignments and tests. This is a bit of a change from what the students are used to doing in previous grades but we are preparing them for future math courses! These daily routines not only help with math, they also help with learning how to be responsible, following directions, and being prepared. These are all great life skills!

Art-Mrs. Humphreys

Current Project: One-point Perspective

- (1) Learn vocabulary terms-horizontal, vertical, parallel, horizon line, vanishing point
- (2) Look at artworks drawn in one-point perspective, where things drawn get smaller and then seem to disappear at the vanishing point
- (3) Create an artwork drawn in one-point perspective, like buildings in a city, fields in the country, lockers in a hallway, etc.

Music - Mrs. J. Hill

Lincoln sixth graders have been singing an 80's song, "We Are The World" to discover how music can have a message. Students learned that slaves had a huge influence on music after their arrival to places all over the world. Students will be singing songs with syncopation including calypso and reggae.

Band - Mr. Hughes

The Advanced Band is gearing up for the Homecoming parade and starting work on upcoming concert material. The kids are sounding great! It is important to explain that ALL members of the Advanced Band are expected to ride the band float for the parade. Every band member is important for our performances. Kids are encouraged to wear school colors, team jerseys, or appropriate clothing that represents any other group to which they belong. All students will be dropped off at Lincoln after the parade.

ELP - Mrs. Sieren

The school year is off to a great start! We are all very excited about the upcoming opportunities that we are getting to participate in this year. The first is the Oct. 4 author presentation in West Branch. The kids and I have been reading the book that author, Delia Ray, wrote about the mystery of the Black Angel statue. If any of you grew up around here, you have definitely heard all of the stories that go along with this statue, I'm sure. The book is a very good children's book that I am enjoying reading with the kids. I encourage you to borrow your child's book and read it also. We were given these books for free, as well as the lunch that we will be given after the author presentation. It was just too good of a deal to pass up! Our plan is to visit the Oakland Cemetery after the book talk on the 4th. I know the kids are looking forward to this. I hope we are not plagued by "the curse"!

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade ELP girls, as well as a few others, are going to participate in a Coe College sponsored conference on October 18. This day is intended to encourage girls to pursue future career fields with foundations in science, technology, engineering and math. We are excited to get to use some grant money to fund this day. Hopefully there will be a special activity that the boys will get to participate in this year.

Lastly, we are also trying to do an aviation unit. We will be launching rockets sometime in late October. You will be hearing more about this in the upcoming weeks. I have most of your e-mail addresses, so I plan to correspond with you through e-mail the majority of the time.

As always, please give me a quick call or send an e-mail if you have any questions.

Read 180-Miss Ebert

Read 180 is off and running for the year! Read 180 is a reading program geared toward making reading interesting and fun. It integrates reading, writing and spelling to boost the student's performance. All this is done with short, 20-minute sessions of whole and small group instruction, computer software and independent reading time. There are 15 fourth grade students, 15 fifth grade students, and 16 sixth grade students in the Read 180 program at Lincoln. These students come to me during their LARS time every day. So far we have worked on the various routines and procedures we will do every day in class and become familiar with the different aspects of the Read 180 program. I am very excited to be in this new position and to help students become readers every day! I have a Lincoln Read 180 blog that I will use to inform parents of what we are doing in the classroom. To access the blog, please use the following site: <http://lincolnread180.blogspot.com/>.

Notes from the Office

Attendance/Absence Line

A new attendance line has been set up for absences in the district. Parents can now call 653-1101 and will get a greeting. They can then press a number to select which school they would like to leave a message for, and then will be able to leave a message about an absence. This will be helpful if you need to call Lincoln about an absence before anyone is in the office at 7:30. You may still call the main office to report an absence, but this is a second option for those parents that are heading off to work early. Thanks for your help in letting Lincoln know when your student will not be in attendance.

Picture Retakes

Picture Retake Day at Lincoln will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2011. Lifetouch will be taking student pictures if they missed the original date, want to replace their package with a new picture or have now decided to order pictures. If you were not happy with the original pictures, please be sure students have their packet with them for retakes. Call Lincoln Office if you have questions at 653-3691.

Homecoming Dismissal

Dismissal for Homecoming on Friday, October 7, 2011, will be at 2:10, not 1:10 as stated earlier in the Lincoln Calendar. The Homecoming parade has been moved back and will start at approx. 2:45 this year.

Author Carol Gorman to Visit Lincoln Elementary

Carol Gorman, author of Dork in Disguise and Chelsey and the Green-Haired Kid will be a guest at Lincoln Elementary on Friday, November 4. She will speak to each grade level, answer questions, and autograph copies of her books. Teachers at Lincoln have been reading aloud from Carol's books so students are familiar with Carol's writing.

The following titles by Carol will be available for purchase at Lincoln starting Monday, October 24th - Dork in Disguise, Chelsey and the Green-Haired Kid, and Stumptown Kid. Books will cost \$10 or less.

Her visit is sponsored by Lincoln PTG. More details will be available in mid October.

Family Literacy Night on Thursday, November 3

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Fun!

Refreshments!

Carol Gorman book character contest with prizes!

Notes from the Principal

Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15. 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 11. The Fire Department will bring 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 see the trucks used by the fire department.

Progress reports were sent home on Friday, September 23, to parents that have not signed up for the electronic version. Please contact a teacher if you have any questions or concerns on your child's progress report.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held October 20 and 25 from 4:30-8:00 PM. 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).

The students and faculty along with the Lincoln Parent/Teacher group (PTG) will be invited to participate in the Bike-A-Thon on Saturday, October 15, 2011 in Sunset Park with a rain-date on October 22, 2011 to raise funds for playground amenities like benches, trash cans or small equipment. We also have a need for more books in Guided Reading and Social Studies. More information will be coming out on this fundraiser.

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