



# *Lincoln Times*

*5th Grade Edition - October 2011*

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

### **Social Studies**

We had a super time on our field trip to West Branch last week. It was a beautiful day and the students learned a lot about our 31st President, Herbert Hoover. A special treat was having a working blacksmith who showed us what Jesse Hoover (Herbert's dad) would have looked like at his job in the 1800's. The students here at school are working at different units at the start of this school year. Some of the students are learning map skills, some are becoming historians and all have now learned about Herbert Hoover.

### **Language Arts, Reading, and Spelling**

We are halfway through our first Unit of our reading series this week. The unit is called **Road to Freedom** and the theme is "A Call for Freedom". The comprehension strategy we will be exploring is making connections. A good reader is constantly making connections. We will be having many examples and discussions about how readers make connections. We began our second theme "Creating a New Nation" and are learning to infer. When we infer, we combine what is in the text with our own knowledge to figure something out that is not directly stated in the text.

Our reading series is set up to get through one theme in 12 days. It fits into our 6 day cycle fairly well. We will have spelling tests every day 5 of our school cycle. We will be taking a Theme test on day 12 of our reading cycle which should work out to be the second day 6 of our school cycle. It seems very confusing, but believe me, the kids adjust very easily

The 5th graders are keeping vocabulary journals. Each week we introduce 5 new vocabulary words. We discuss the definitions and write the word and the definition in our Vocab. Journals. The students are assigned to use each vocabulary word in a complete sentence, (capital letter, punctuation and the correct use of the word.). They draw a picture to go along with the sentence to demonstrate understanding of the vocabulary word. The picture must be colored and neatly done. This is a great way to check for understanding of new words.

Students receive their spelling lists each week. The pretest us usually on Day 1 with the post test on Day 5. Worksheets for practice are given during the week for continued practice.

### **Math**

We have started the Mathematical Thinking unit of Investigations. Students will be learning about number relationships by building number rectangles with tiles in the classroom. They will learn more about factors and multiples of numbers. They will be familiar with prime, composite, and square numbers. Students will use this knowledge to solve number puzzles.

### **System 44 - Mrs. Shields**

Fifth grade System 44 students continue to progress at their own pace through the computer software with 20 minutes of the daily 90-minute block spent using the computer for instruction and practice. Reinforcement activities include reading from the 44 Library, Decodable Digest, and working in the 44 Book. Current topics range from reading and working with words with long a vowel teams (pain, mail, brain) to prefixes and suffixes.

In whole group instruction we've been working on:

- Identifying and using prefixes and suffixes.
- Getting automatic with sight words.
- Understanding syllables.
- Contrasting long and short vowels.

As students work to improve phonics and comprehension skills it is vital that they practice reading a minimum of 20 minutes daily at home. Please help your child set aside time each day.

### **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/>.

### **Science**

The students have been challenged to explore the concept of variables in a variety of ways. We have used an activity called "Johnny Whoops" to help show the importance of observation and how scientists conduct experiments. We will be spending the next week investigating how a pendulum works. Four variables tested are: mass, release point, pushing, and length of the swinger have on the number of cycles. Following pendulums, we will use other systems, to show the students basic principles of inquiry. It should be an exciting opportunity for the students to actively be engaged in their learning!

### **Art-Mrs. Humphreys**

Current Project: Shape Design

- (1) To learn how artists use repetition and balance to make a strong artwork
- (2) To learn about symmetrical and asymmetrical balance
- (3) To create an artwork using shapes, lines and colors that has repetition and balance

### **Music-Mrs. Hill**

Fifth graders at Lincoln have been discovering meter in music and have conducted songs. Students have learned songs in Spanish and have done some dancing. Soon they will begin practicing for a concert coming up at 7:00 P.M. November 22, 2011 at the Washington Community Center.

## **Band - Mr. Hughes**

I hope that the recruitment activities were as fun for the kids as they were for me! The Super Lesson was loads of fun. Check out our pictures on the Music Booster page. The Booster page is linked to the school website and can be found under Students/Parents, then Links.

If your child missed out, it is not too late. Please call or e-mail the school and we can get your child signed up and making music.

## **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 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 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.



**Below are some dates to Remember in October:**

Wed., Oct. 5	1:10 Dismissal - Professional Growth
Thurs., Oct. 6	Picture Re-takes
Friday, Oct. 7	2:10 Dismissal - Homecoming
Sat., Oct. 15	Bike-A-Thon
Wed., Oct. 19	1:10 Dismissal - Professional Growth
Thurs., Oct. 20	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Sat., Oct. 22	Bike-A-Thon Rain Date
Tues., Oct. 25	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Friday, October 28	NO SCHOOL - Work Day
Mon., October 31	Halloween Activities

**ELP - Mrs. Sieren**

The year is off to a great start! We started the year by talking about goal setting and watching some motivational videos to "inspire" them. Everyone set some goals for this year in fifth grade, as well as some life goals. We are now working on a unit called, "Psychology for Kids". In this unit, the children will learn more about themselves by taking little "mini tests" and discussing the results. So far, they have learned if they are optimists or pessimists, introverted or extroverted, or have stereotypes of people. They will continue to learn about themselves in this unit, as well as about their classmates and teacher!

I will try to correspond with most of you by e-mail. When you registered this year, some of you gave your e-mail address. If so, I have it. If you didn't and would like to receive e-mails from me, please let me know.

**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.