



4th Grade Lincoln Times October 2010 Edition

Here's What's Happening in 4th
Grade!!

Language Arts, Reading and Spelling (LARS)

During the month of October, we are learning how determining importance can help us understand what we read. When we determine importance, we think about the information we read and decide if it important or just interesting.

Determine Importance You can help your child practice determining importance with the following activity.

News or Not? Invite your child to read an age-appropriate magazine article with you. Explain that some information in a magazine article is important and some is just interesting. Remind your child that this also happens in books that he or she reads. Ask your child to write down all of the important pieces of information in the article while you write down all of the less important pieces. When you've finished your lists, discuss the information. Is there any disagreement over which information is important and which is just interesting? Switch roles with your child and repeat the exercise.

Included in the newsletter are the next months of spelling words. Please look for dates in your child's teacher's weekly newsletter.

Social Studies

We have been discussing and looking at the Southwest region of the United States. States in this region include Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona. The students have learned many things about the environment of this region. They have also learned many vocabulary words, concepts, and ideas, which have been added to a foldable (study guide) that they made. Their foldable and all other foldables will have important information the students will need to know for each test. We learned about the gulf coast, canyons, deserts, oil, and wells for water and oil in the Southwest region. We will then be studying the history and economy of the Southwest in October. We will learn about the Hopi, the arrival of the Spanish, the rise of ranching, and the Southwest today. We again will make a foldable to put

all the important vocabulary and notes in. **Watch the assignment book for a test date on the history and economy of the Southwest Region in early October.**

After finishing up the Southwest Region, we will look at the Southeast Region of the United States. States in this region include West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The students will be learning many things about the environment of this region. They will learn many vocabulary words, concepts, and ideas, which will be added to a foldable (study guide) that they make. Students will also have to label the states in the Southeast and each region thereafter as we proceed through the year!

4th Grade Teachers

Math

Welcome to a new school year. We are enjoying getting to know your children and we're certain that we will have a great year in fourth grade math.

During the first two months of school the fourth graders will be reviewing telling time, reading a calendar, and practicing addition and subtraction. Working with flash cards at home and helping them with subtraction problems will assist your child in mastering these concepts. Problems such as 80-58; 605-378; or 900-362 are often challenging for fourth graders. Students are also working with arrays, multiples, factors, and products. These multiplication concepts will assist students as we introduce division in math class.

Students will have math assignments as homework. You will know if they have homework when you check your child's assignment book. Math students write HW (Homework) meaning they have an assignment due the next day. The assignment is expected to be completed before class the next day. If a student is absent they are expected to make up the work they have missed.

Extra credit is always available in math class. Students may take extra credit home to finish or complete it at school. Extra credit can only help your child's grade, never lower it.

Science

Welcome back to school. The first month has flown by. In science your child has been working with water. He/she will be completing labs on some of the different properties that water has, investigating different factors that influence water, evaporation and condensation, observing how water moves through different materials, and how water can be used for work. Their science notebooks should contain a list of word wall words and their definitions, which will be continually, add to as we advance through the unit.

Those words will be on the written water unit test later in the month. Your child will also be given a performance test to be completed in class over this unit. Again as in the magnet unit, the science notebooks will be collected for a grade. Your child should have the table of contents completed, all the pages numbered and dated, with all pages completed at that time.

The next unit of study will be a short unit over the ocean. This unit will be completed in the traditional method: reading from a source (reading packets will be made available). Your child will have four or five homework assignments to complete throughout the unit. This unit takes approximately two weeks and then a test will be given.

If you have any questions, **please** give your child's science teacher a call or e-mail. Thanks in advance for helping your child to be successful in science.

Art and Music

We are working on the following projects in art:

4th Grade: Self Portrait

- (1) Make connections to portraits with background surroundings
- (2) Learn how to draw the face
- (3) Use watercolor painting techniques
- (4) Paint self-portrait to tell about themselves

Fourth graders at Lincoln have been keeping the beat to the music by patting, clapping, chanting, and dancing. They have learned that musical terms are mostly in Italian (along with a lot of our favorite foods!) We have sung a song where students echo in a foreign language, a song that expresses feelings about a bad day, and a rock and roll song among others.

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

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 Ruettiger 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.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

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

S.A.M. - RYAN GRATZ



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 have 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.