



Lincoln Times 6th Grade Edition December 2010

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

6th Grade LARS-Ms. Swift, Mrs. Adrian, Mrs. Phipps

It's hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner. Where has the beginning of the year gone?

During the month of December, students will read a mystery novel. They will meet with their group every day and participate in Literature Circles. We've added 2 jobs to the Lit. Circles. These jobs are "summarizer and vocabulary builder". Along with the mystery unit, students will continue to have spelling pretests and posttests.

Students were assigned new reading goals. They should be reading 15 minutes each night at home to meet their new goal.

Science - Mrs. Clawson

Have you heard your student talk (or complain) about black boxes, droughtstoppers, or humdingers? Science students are in the "Models and Designs" unit right now. This unit focuses on learning more about how real scientists work as they create a new invention, improve on something that has already been invented, etc. The activities seem to be simple at first glance, but are very challenging as the students try to solve them and incorporate many types of thinking skills. As I walk around the labs, it isn't unusual to hear moans of frustration, deep sighs, and also cheers of victory.

There are extra credit opportunities in the students' notebook that your child can do until the end of the unit. You might want to see if there are any that would be fun to do over Christmas vacation!

Social Studies

We are just beginning our Ancient Egyptian unit. We will be studying mummies, Pharaohs, the Nile River, gods and goddesses, hieroglyphics, etc. The students will be doing a project on an Ancient Egyptian topic of their choice at the end of this unit. The written part of the project will be completed at school. They may need to videotape or make an extra credit project at home.

6th Math

We have reached the end of the first trimester and have worked on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals. This included exact answers as well as estimation and problem solving. We also did a short unit on geometry and are learning some basic algebra concepts. We're now ready to do work which will lead up to studying fractions.

When you look at your son or daughter's math grade ask if they redid any quizzes or did extra credit to improve their average. These are the best ways to improve the letter grade. Progress reports will not show late work or extra credit. These are figured in at the end of the grading period.

The year is progressing rapidly and students are making excellent progress. Have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas season!

Here's What's Happening Around The Building!

Art - Mrs. Humphreys

6th Grade Art:

We will begin the states project after Thanksgiving break.

States landscape
Research about a state for landscape and landmarks.
Create a magazine cover with the computer about the state.

Music - Mrs. Hill

Sixth graders are currently studying the life and music of Johann Sebastian Bach, and will soon be getting ready for their program, which will be presented at the Washington High School Auditorium on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. Students will need to be at the high school at 6:45 p.m. We will be asking the adults in attendance for \$1 admission to help fund our concerts.

Sunrise Singer performances:

Tue. Dec. 7 - Advanced band and Sunrise Singers - High school auditorium
at 7:00 p.m. Meet in the H.S. vocal music room at 6:45
Admission - free will donation

Fri. Dec. 10 - Adv. Band & Sunrise Singers - Lincoln gym 8:30 A.M.

Tue. Dec. 14 - Sunrise Singers perform at Y's men - Washington Y, 3rd floor
7:00 P.M.

Wed. Dec. 15 - Sunrise Singers perform at McCreedy Home 1:15
Washington Care Center 1:45

Tue. Jan. 18 - Sunrise Singers perform at Hospice Dinner - UP Church
5:30 P.M.

ELP - Mrs. Sieren

6th Grade ELP Parents,

I hope you had a great holiday break with your family and friends. I know I always enjoying getting to spend a few days shopping and eating with my family!

I just wanted to share with you my new blog. This will keep you up to date about what has been happening in the ELP room. I will try to post a couple of new articles each week. Please check it out!

Go to the Washington Community Schools homepage first and then scroll down under "schools" to "Lincoln Elementary". Once you get to the Lincoln Elementary page, look on the left hand side of the page. Under "teacher sites" you will see Mrs. Sieren's ELP blog. Click on it and it will take you directly to my page. Happy reading!

Mrs. Sieren

The First Line of Defense Against Germs

Germs can be transmitted many ways, including:

- touching dirty hands
- changing dirty diapers
- through contaminated water and food
- through droplets released during a cough or a sneeze
- contaminated surfaces
- through contact with a sick person's body fluids

When kids come into contact with germs, they can unknowingly become infected simply by touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. And once they're infected, it's usually just a matter of time before the whole family comes down with the same illness. Good hand washing is the first line of defense against the spread of many illnesses, from the common cold to more serious illnesses such as meningitis.

Washing Hands Correctly

Here's how to scrub those germs away. Demonstrate this routine to your kids – or better yet, wash your hands together often so they learn how important this good habit is:

- Wash your hands in warm water. Make sure the water isn't too hot for little hands.
- Use soap and lather up for about 20 seconds. Make sure you get in between the fingers and under the nails where uninvited germs like to hang out.
- Rinse and dry well with a clean towel.

To minimize the germs passed around your family, make frequent hand washing a rule for everyone, especially:

- before eating and cooking
- after using the bathroom
- after cleaning around the house
- after touching animals, including family [pets](#)
- before and after visiting or taking care of any sick friends or relatives
- after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
- after being outside

Don't underestimate the power of hand washing! The few seconds you spend at the sink could save you trips to the doctor's office.

Holly Roth RN,BSN

Lincoln School Nurse

Helping Your Child Succeed at School

Taken from the Iowa Statewide Family Engagement Center
<http://www.iowaparents.org>

You are your child's best teacher! Research shows that children whose parents are engaged in their education are more likely to achieve academic success. It is essential to be as **positive** as possible as you support your child. The following ideas are effective for children in grades PreK-12!

1. Have high expectation for your child.

Kids rise to a challenge. Make sure your child understands the clear expectations you have for them and how well they should do in school.

2. Talk to your child about school.

Ask specific questions to draw out your child. Instead of asking "yes" or "no" questions, ask, "*How do you think you did on the math test?*" or "*What is something funny that happened at school today?*" or "*What did you do during PE?*" It is very important as you talk with your child about school to help them believe in themselves and have the confidence to know that they can succeed.

3. Get "connected" with your child's teachers.

Teacher and parents should be equal partners. This doesn't mean you have the same role, but you are both equally important players in supporting the success of your child. Ask teachers about their expectations. What are students expected to master by the end of the year in each class? Ask what you can do at home to support what is going on in the classroom.

4. Make sure your child has a quiet place to study and learn at home.

Find an area in your home that is free of distraction where your child can concentrate on homework and other learning without being disturbed by other distractions. Listening to music while doing homework is not the best way for all students to focus on their homework. Be available to help if your child has a question. Make sure your child spends enough time learning at home. A commonly accepted rule is 10 minutes of learning at home per school night per grade level (e.g., 6th grade = 60 minutes, 9th grade = 90 minutes, 12th grade = 120 minutes). Students should spend time learning at home every night even if they don't have specific homework.

5. Get your child "connected" to the school.

Students who feel “connected” to adults and other students at school do better academically. Encourage your child to join a club, participate in intramural activities, go out for a sport, or join a music group. If there isn’t a club or activity at the school your child is interested in, work with the school to start one.

6. Check our child’s homework, but don’t do it.

Offer to check math problems, proofread written papers, and look over spelling words. If you find a mistake, point it out to your child and help them figure out the correct answer. Remember to also point out what your child did well in their homework too. If your child is having trouble encourage them to contact their peers or look for an online resource. Also encourage your child to ask for help from the teacher. Remember to help your child practice how to ask for help in a positive way.

7. Find out about homework assignments and school test.

Use your district’s online computer system or teacher’s webpage to monitor homework assignments and get in the habit of checking it regularly. If you can’t find the information you need about upcoming classroom assignments, contact your child’s teacher(s) and ask them to post more information that can help you know how your child is doing and how you can support them at home.

8. Post a family calendar in a central place.

Write down important school dates, including due dates for projects and tests. Encourage your child to add to the calendar and to check it daily. Help your child learn to plan and prepare ahead. As your child gets older, help your child take the lead for regulating and organizing homework and study time with you as their coach.

9. Go to school meetings and events.

Attending concerts, plays, assemblies, meetings and other activities is a good way to become familiar with your school community.

10. Volunteer to chaperone school dances and drive kids to school competitions.

You’ll meet other parents, school staff, and your child’s classmates. Remember to develop a network of other parents with whom you can share information and discuss ideas.

11. Find a way to make your voice heard.

If you have the time and desire, ask to be a part of school committees. Attend PTA/PTO meetings. If there is no parent advisory committee for the school, work with school staff to start one.

Teresa Beenblossom - Guidance

Taken from the Iowa Statewide Family Engagement Center
<http://www.iowaparents.org>

Notes from the Principal

With winter weather just around the corner, please review with your child where to go in case of an unplanned early out. This will help to ease student anxiety and cut down on the long lines to use the telephones.

With temperatures dropping we remind you to dress your children warm, like they are going out for recess. We do watch the temperature and wind chill before making a decision on sending students outside. A lot of students come to school without hats or gloves. If your child needs to stay in for recess, please send a note. If your child needs to stay in for medical reasons longer than two days, a doctor's note should be sent.

A special "thank you" to the students for working hard on Basic Skills and to the PTG for supporting and organizing the distribution of snacks during Basic Skills.

In the past, many parents and students bring Christmas presents for teachers and staff. We are asking instead of presents for teachers or staff members, if parents would consider sending games or activities for students to use for inside recess. This will give students more activities to choose from when the rain or cold weather sets in.

We will dismiss on Tuesday, December 22 at 1:10 PM for winter break. School will resume on Tuesday, January 4.

Finally, remember to stay in touch with the school. If you have a question or concern let us know. Do not wait for progress reports, conferences or report cards. Two-way communication between home and school is one of the keys to the academic success of your child.

Thank you for a great year at Lincoln Elementary and Happy Holidays!

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. Veta Thode at 319-653-6543.