



Lincoln Times

5th Grade Edition - January 2012

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

Social Studies

The students in Mrs. Klopfenstein's class and Mr. Berhow's class are busy looking up information on an explorer. They are working in pairs and researching their explorer on the Internet and reading books. They will then develop a Power Point presentation to tell the rest of the class about their person. This is a fun way to learn about exploration.

The other four classes are working on WWII-The Homefront. As a final project, the students will choose a method to present what they have learned about in the unit. The four topics they can choose from our Propaganda, Japanese Internment, Recycle/Rationing, and Industry Changes. There are eight different presentation methods. More information will be sent home.

Language Arts, Reading, and Spelling

Our Literature Circles were a success. The students really worked hard and were pushed by each other to get their books read. They had their jobs done and this allowed for great discussions among peers. We will do literature circles again in the future.

We will begin Theme 6 -2 after the new year. During Theme 6 we will learn about synthesizing, or taking what you already know and combining it with new knowledge creating a new understanding. We will be saying to ourselves "I am thinking and I am realizing..." or "Now I know...." We will review monitoring understanding or going back over something you don't understand so that you understand it better. We will be discussing problem and solution and organization in writing, as well as setting. As always we will continue to learn new vocabulary words and spelling words. Have a wonderful holiday and remember to read over break.

THE MORE YOU READ, THE MORE YOU KNOW

Math

The fifth graders have just finished the multiplication unit. They checked their work using the Lattice multiplication method. Many students improved their multiplication skills the month of December. A division unit will be done in January. They will take a pretest to assess their prior knowledge of division. Their assignments will be done mostly in class so that we will be able to work with small groups of students or individual help can be given during that class time. Happy Holidays to everyone!

Science

We are beginning our investigations into bridges and other structures. KNEX building materials will be used to show the students how to follow a diagram when building a bridge. We will be exploring a web site from Public Broadcasting to show the various types of bridges, how forces work on bridges, and looking at famous bridges from around the world. The address is <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/buildingbig/bridge/> if you are wanting to check it out. The students will also be designing and creating straw bridges that will be tested in class for strength. This will be an interesting exploration of structures over the next 2-3 weeks. Keep your eyes open for the many bridges around our area and as you travel over vacation!

System 44-Mrs. Shields

Students have been introduced to and have practiced "Look. Spot. Split. Read." Most words can be decoded with the use of this word attack strategy that is useful even as an adult.

Students took the SRI again this month. The data from the SRI is used to make instructional decisions just like the Iowa Assessments and SuccessMaker data.

Students continue to work on the System 44 software at their own pace. During whole group we have worked on possessives, contractions, prefixes and suffixes.

Art-Mrs. Humphreys

The fifth grade students will be starting the iProject after break. During this project, students will make a connection between advertising and art, learn how to use Adobe Photoshop on the computer and create an artwork that shows personal interest.

Art Classes can always use quart size zip lock bags if you would like to make a contribution to our classes. Thanks!

Music-Mrs. Hill

Fifth grade students are doing a project where they are creating commercials and coming up with a short musical jingle. The commercials will be videotaped when students present them in class.

Sunrise Singers did a great job with their December performances, thanks for all your hard work! Our next performance will be Jan. 17 - Sunrise Singers perform at Hospice Dinner - UP Church at 5:30 P.M.

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.

Dates to Remember:

Jan. 1 - Happy New Year!
Jan. 2 - No Classes - Winter Break
Jan. 3 - Classes Resume
Jan. 9 - Geography Bee, 4:00 Media Center
Jan. 11 - 1:10 Dismissal - Professional Growth
Jan. 13 - Lego League to Ames - 2:00
Jan. 16 - NO SCHOOL - Workday
Jan. 20 - Progress Reports go Home
Jan. 23 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 8:00
Jan. 24 - QSP Fundraiser Begins
Jan. 25 - 1:10 Dismissal - Professional Growth
Jan. 26 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 8:00
Jan. 27 - SEICDA Honor Choir
Feb. 3 - VIP DAY

ELP - Mrs. Sieren

We have been learning about eyewitness basics, fingerprinting, impression evidence, and being observant. The kids are enjoying being "detectives". We will finish this unit after Christmas by solving an online murder mystery. It is a great way for the kids to pull together everything they have been learning. We will then start a unit about the stock market.

Happy New Year!!

Notes from the Counselor

The character pillar for the month of January is Responsibility. I will be going into the classrooms this month discussing what responsibility means and some examples of being a responsible student here at school, in the community, and at home. Part of being responsible is: do what you are supposed to do, plan ahead, always do your best, use self-control, be self-disciplined, think before you act — consider the consequences, be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes, and set a good example for others. Thanks for helping your child become more responsible!!

Lisa Otters
Guidance Counselor

Notes from the Principal

With winter in full gear, your family will probably be in and around the home. I would encourage you to take the time to read together.

Reading is at the heart of all learning. Listen carefully when you read with the children in your family to understand how they are developing as a reader. Reading with children is an easy way to involve yourself in their education. Research on reading skills shows that children whose families spend time discussing, explaining and asking questions know more words than other children.

One part of reading that Lincoln teachers are constantly working on is fluency. Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately and quickly. Fluency is important because it frees students to understand what they have read. Reading fluency can be developed by modeling fluent reading (reading aloud) and by having students engage in repeated oral reading. This is a great family activity with books and poems.

Fill your holiday season and New Year with opportunities for learning by reading together. Books make excellent holiday gifts!

On Friday, February 3, Lincoln Elementary will be hosting VIP Day and a Book Fair. This is an opportunity for you to visit your child's classroom and have lunch. PTG will be sponsoring the Book Fair on this day. More details will follow, as we get closer to the date.

With the end of the year, we want to thank you for your past support and ask you for your continued support of Lincoln Elementary. Working together, we can assure a great education for your children.

If you have not, please check out the district web page at www.washington.k12.wa.us
All buildings have made an effort to keep the web page up-to-date with weekly happenings. It is an excellent opportunity to see not only what is happening at Lincoln but throughout Washington community Schools.

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and excited about a new year.

Best Wishes and a Happy New Year!
David Hoffman, Principal

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.