



Lincoln Times

4th Grade Edition - January 2012

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

Social Studies

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We will be discussing and looking at the Northeast Region of the United States in January, 2012. States in this region include Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. The students will be learning many things about the environment of this region, including the Atlantic Coast, the colors of the region, and seaways and cities. They are also learning many vocabulary words, concepts, and ideas, which will be added to a foldable (study guide) that they made. Students will have to label the states in the N.E. region on the test. Be looking for a test date on the newsletter, blog, and/or in the assignment books.

We will learn about the history and economy of the Northeast Region in our next unit in January as well. In this unit, students will learn about the Iroquois, The American Revolution, The Industrial Revolution, and The Northeast Today. We will also do a lesson on drawing inferences. Students will also have to label the states in this region on a map as well as label the regions we've already studied- S.W. and S.E.

4th Grade Teachers

Science

The first week of January time will be spent reviewing and finishing the Earth Materials lab unit. A lab test is scheduled for January 9th. From there your child will be doing a more traditional unit over rocks and minerals, reading from a packet and completing worksheets. After completing the packet, a short test will be given.

The next unit of study will be the electrical unit. If your child did not bring in two "D" size batteries at the beginning of the year, please send them so he/she may participate in the engaging and challenging labs. Your child will learn to make series and parallel circuit, wiring bulbs, switches, and other materials together. Please **do not** show or tell your child how to complete the circuit, let them discover this on their own. They will figure the process out!

Language Arts and Reading

We will be starting theme 7 when we get back from winter break. The comprehension strategy we will be working on is monitoring understanding. When we monitor understanding, we regularly check our understanding and make adjustments as needed. During theme 7, we will be also be learning

about helping verbs and the endings -ed, -ing, and -s. The writing organizer is sequence and we will be writing sequential texts.

We will also be starting theme 8 during January. The comprehension strategy for this theme is questioning. The kids will practice asking questions during this theme. When we ask questions, we use our curiosity to think about questions that come to mind as we read. We will also be learning about adjective and using them to add description to our writing. The kids will be writing a fiction story using a story organizer.

Spelling

Words for test on Friday, January 6th: clown, skis, up, orbit, counter, compass, aware, how, follow, rough, repair, them, beauty, cougar, bulletin, promise, quantity, stomach

Words for test on Friday, January 13: about, invited, masses, each, countries, nerves, will, wolves, millions, do, worrying, losing, shared, donkeys, committed, instead, oxen, potatoes

Words for test on Friday, January 20: bee, modern, Spanish, favorite, enormous, if, important, twelve, said, heroic, jolly, by, purple, frantic, endangered, energetic, genuine, hilarious

Words for test on Friday, January 27: unspoken, unafraid, unbutton, uncomfortable, an, when, unwelcome, unknown, unused, we, unbeaten, uncertain, can, uninteresting, uncle, unconscious, unite, unreasonable

Math

It is time for the holiday break so make sure your child practices their multiplication and division facts during their vacation. When the students come back to school in January, they will be working with multiplication problems. Students will continue to solve problems like 48×7 ; 293×3 ; and 8964×6 . Students will also learn to solve multiplication problems using several different methods.

We will also finish our landmark numbers unit in January and then begin a unit about fractions. Any help you give your children at home will only help them learn and understand the importance of math in their lives.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season!!

Music - Mrs. J. Hill

Fourth grade students have been writing blues songs. They learned that blues performers use improvisation when they perform. The hardest part of the assignment is to come up with words that rhyme. They did a great job with this! Currently, students are having fun singing winter holiday songs.

Art - Mrs. Humphreys

The fourth grade students are working on an abstract art project. During this project, they will learn the meaning of 'abstract', make connections to the artwork of Georgia O'Keeffe and use oil pastels to create an abstract artwork.

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

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.

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

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.ia.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.